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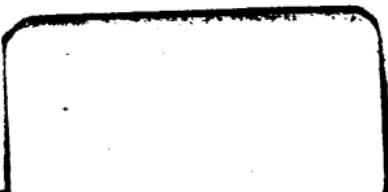
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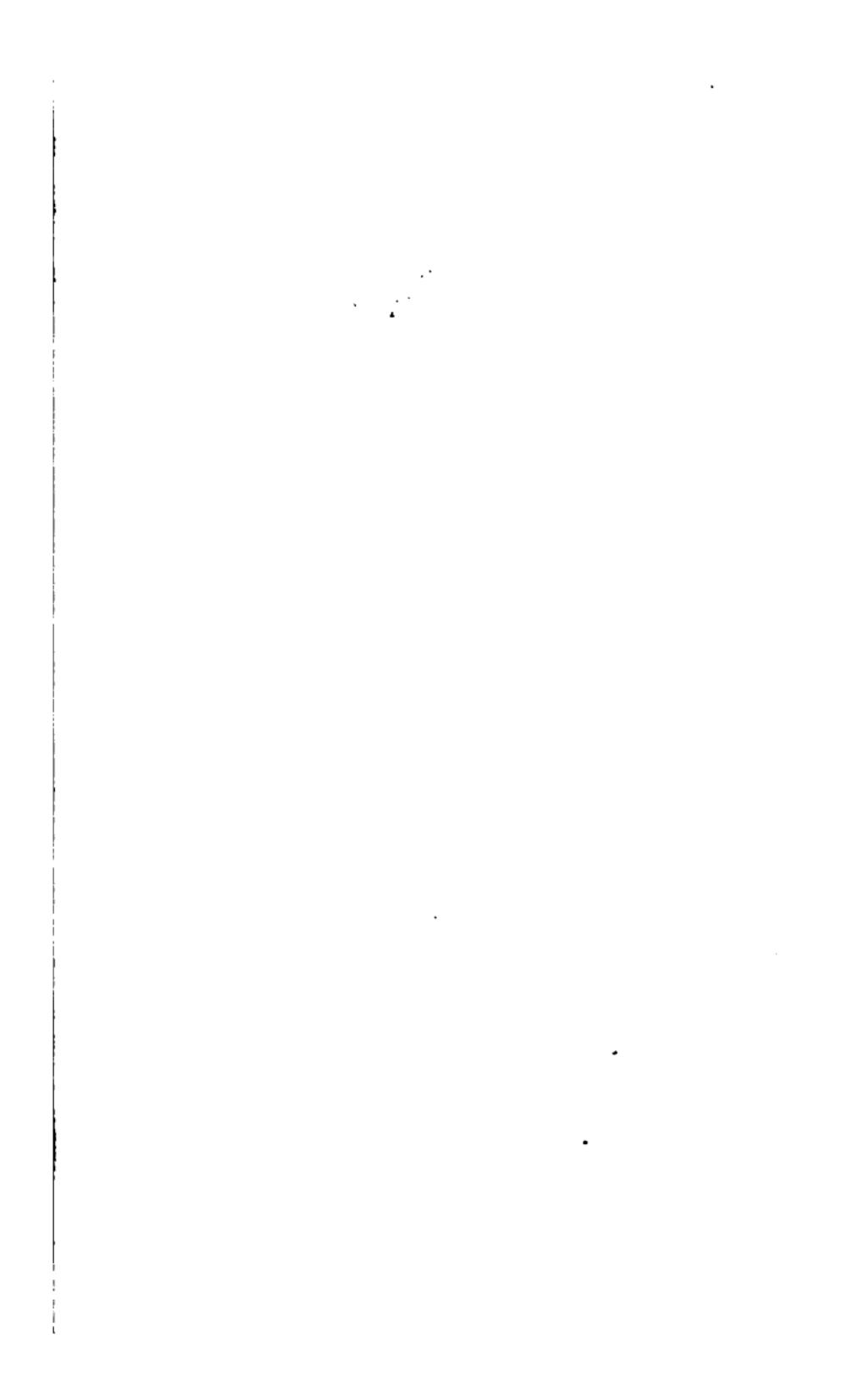
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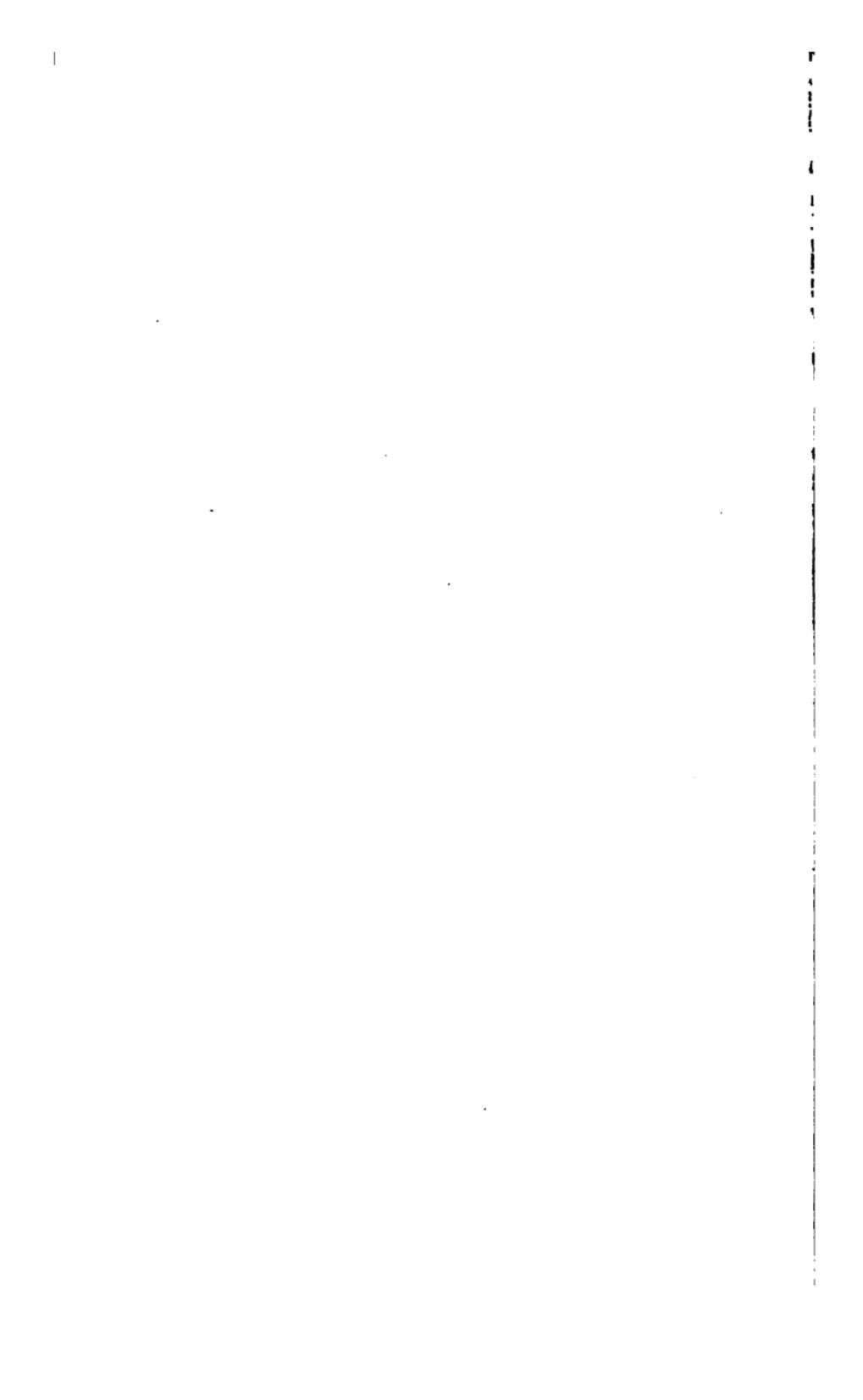
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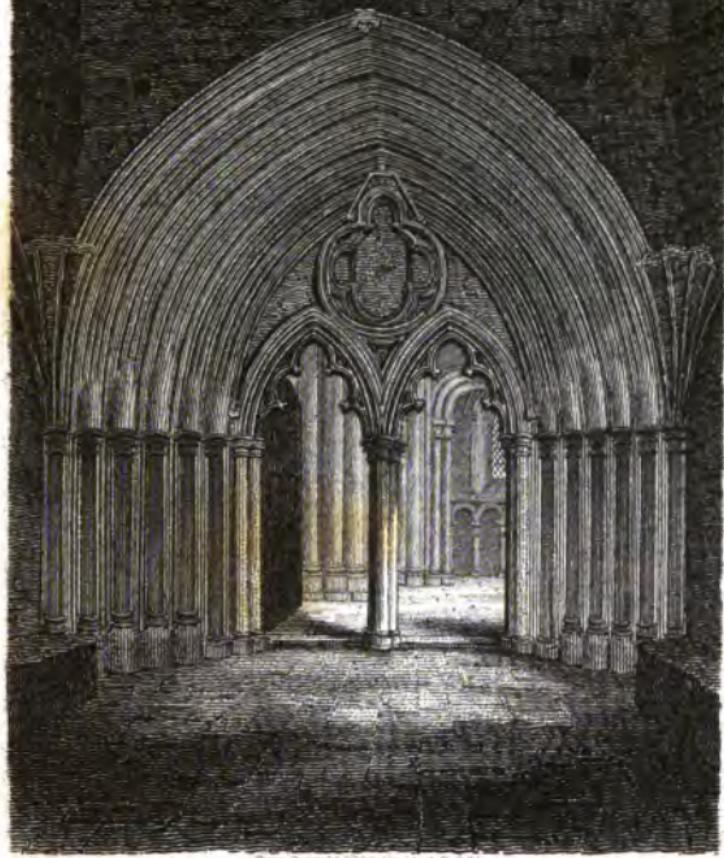
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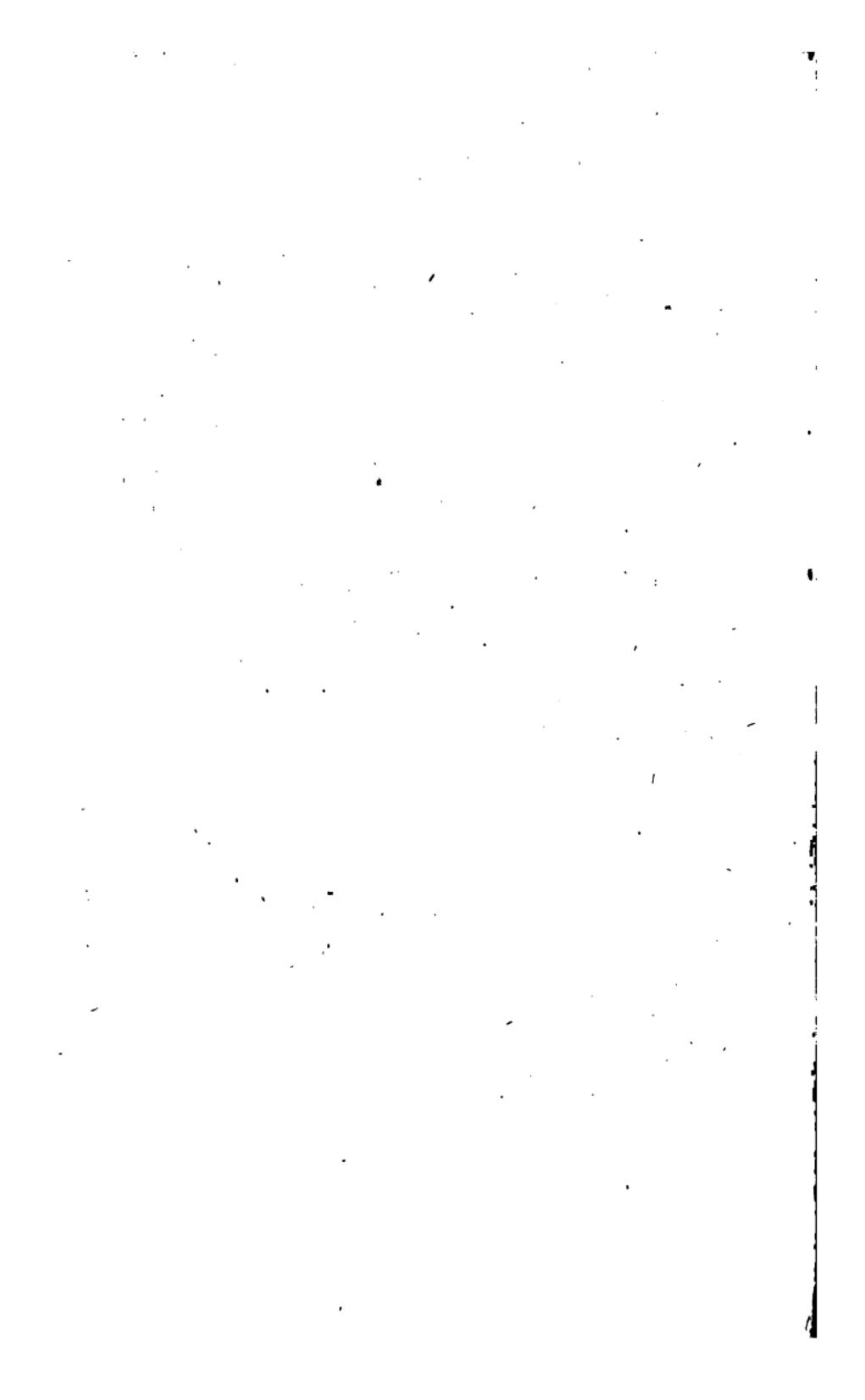


ANCIENT RELIQUES  
VOL. I



Printed by James F. D. Lathrop, New York.

*North Entrance to Christchurch.*



# ANCIENT RELIQUES;

OR,

## **DELINEATIONS**

OF

**MONASTIC, CASTELLATED, & DOMESTIC**

## **Architecture,**

**AND OTHER INTERESTING SUBJECTS;**

WITH

**HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE SKETCHES.**

*James Storer and J. G. Greg.*

*Eheu ! quam fugaces labuntur anni !*

**VOLUME I.**

**London :**

Published for the Proprietors by W. CLARKE, New Bond Street ;  
J. CARPENTER, Old Bond Street ; C. CHAPPLE, Pall Mall ;  
J. M. RICHARDSON, Cornhill ; and  
SHERWOOD, NEELY, and JONES, Paternoster Row.

1812.

Coe, Printer, 10, Little Carter Lane, London.

FA2403.1

1860, July 13.

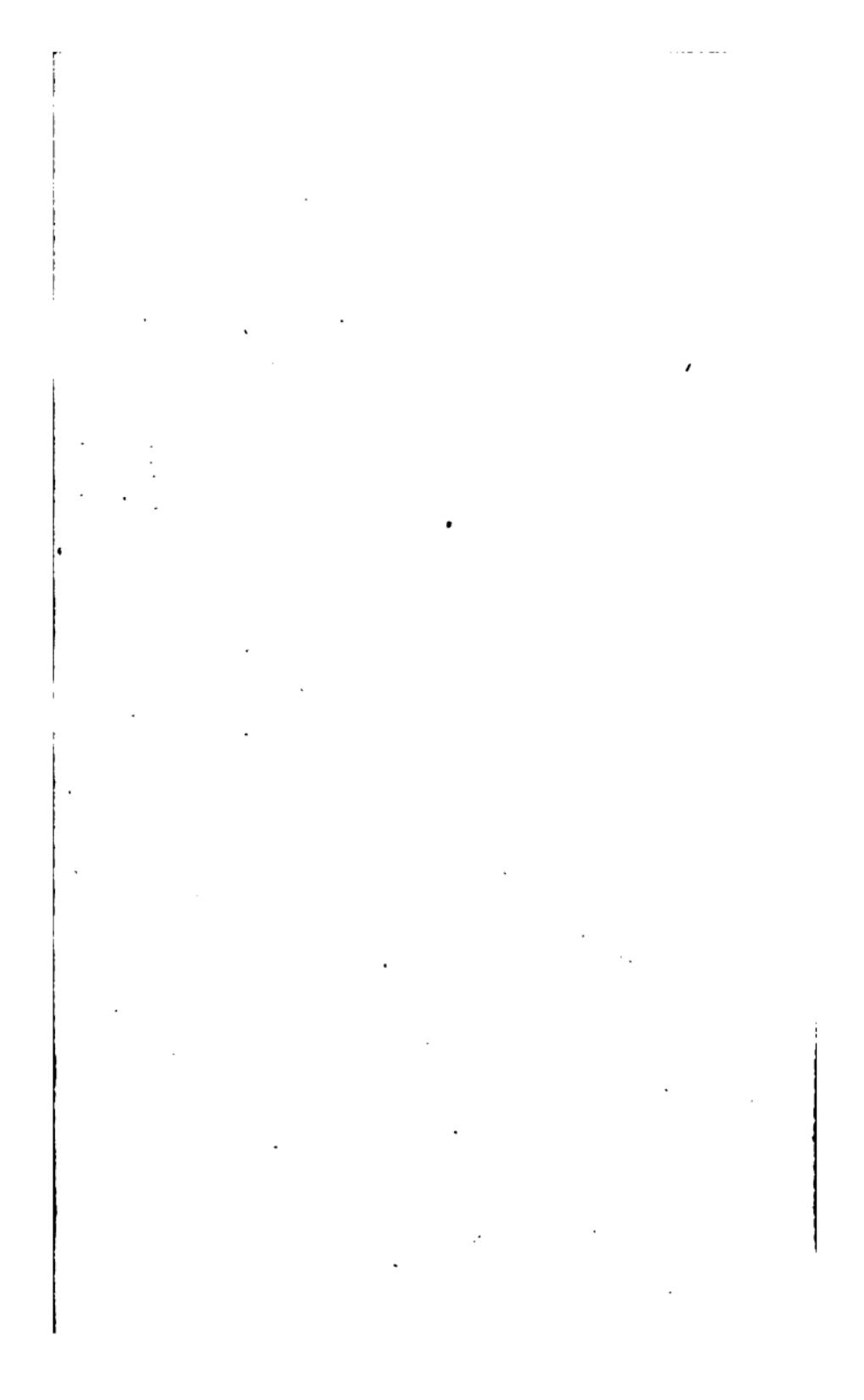
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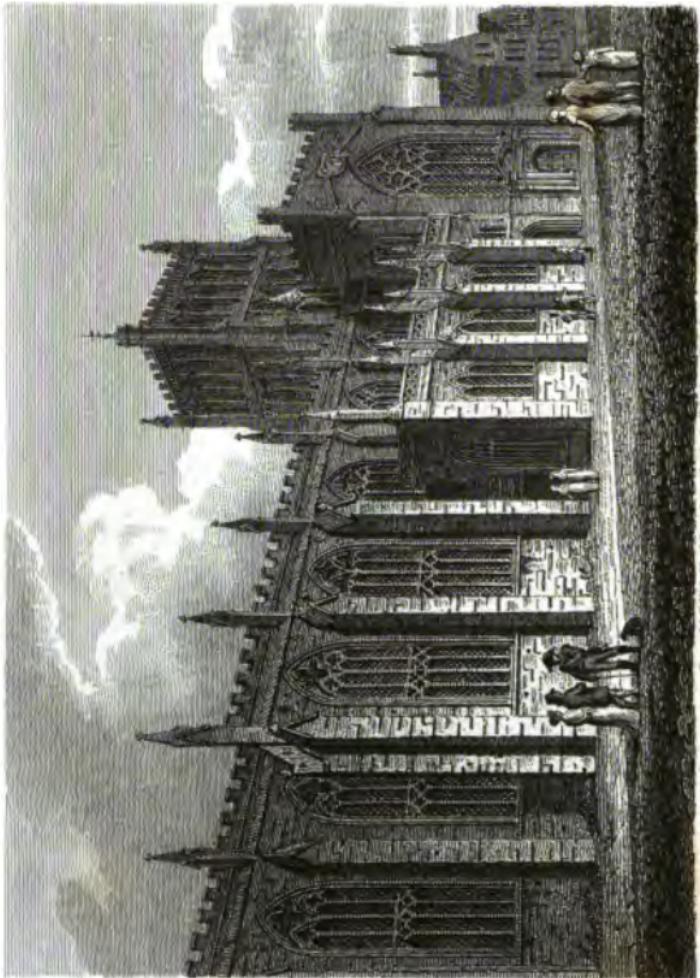
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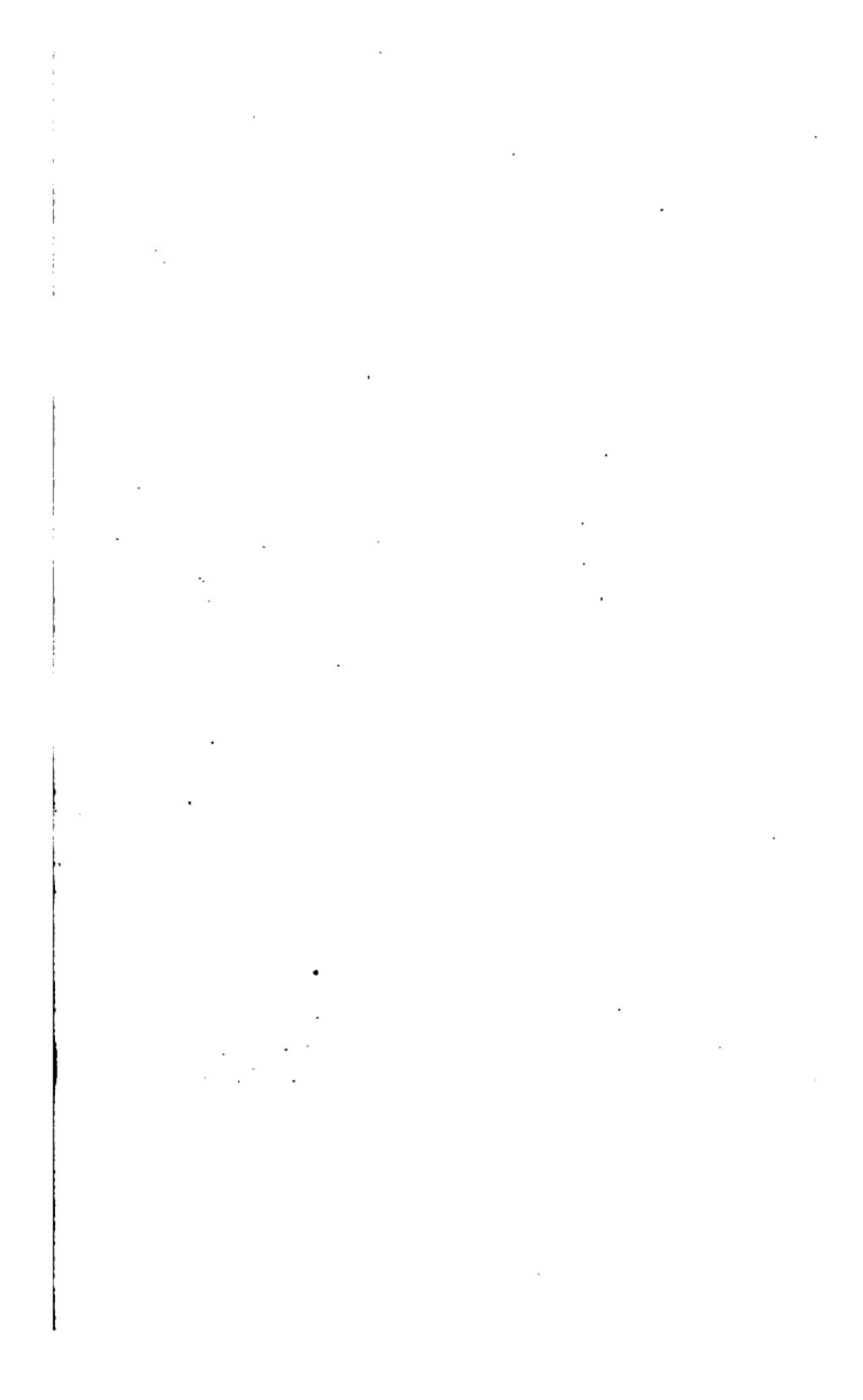
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*Engraved & Published by J. Chapman from a Drawing by G. C. Thompson, Architect.*

*The Cathedral, Bristol.*





Engraved & Published by J. Scott, from a drawing by C. W. Cope, No. 1, 1810.

Abbey Gate, Bristol.

## THE CATHEDRAL,

### BRISTOL.

THE Cathedral or Church of the Holy Trinity at Bristol, is part of the monastery of St. Augustine, which was founded in the year 1140 by sir Robert Fitzharding. It is situated upon a rising ground, commanding a most delightful prospect of the adjacent country. The area which the buildings formerly occupied is very extensive, and shews that this was a most spacious and magnificent monastery. The foundation was for an abbot, prior, sub-prior, and about fourteen friars or canons regular. These, like the generality of monks, were far from observing the sanctity which they professed ; for it appears by the visitation of Godfrey, bishop of Worcester, that this abbey was in spiritual matters greatly decayed ; he therefore ordered, " that in future they do not as bees fly out of the choir as soon as service is ended ; but devoutly wait as become holy and settled persons, not as vagrants and vagabonds ; and returning to God due thanks for their benefactors, and so receiving at last the fruits of their religion to which they have specially devoted themselves." And as the present abbot was not sufficiently instructed to propound the word of God in common, he appointed others in his stead. The same bishop also

#### THE CATHEDRAL, BRISTOL.

ordered, that in the infirmary food and drink be provided for the sick; and forbid under a curse, that any feign himself sick when he is not so; to live a dissolute life, and fraudulently despise God's worship; nor should the friars that were in health meet in the infirmary for the sake of drinking and surfeiting; also that during their meals they should abstain from detraction and obscene speech, and use words of honesty and good tendency to edify the soul.

This being one of the great abbeys, came to the crown by the statue of the thirty-first of Henry VIII. and, according to Speed, was estimated at £ 767 : 15 : 8 *per annum*. Henry, in the midst of his rapacious career, made a shew of refunding by the erection of six new bishoprics, of which this dissolved monastery was one, and the church of the monks was fixed upon for the Cathedral, though it scarcely escaped the demolition that threatened it, on account of the lead with which it was covered. The work of destruction was already commenced, and after unceasing the roof, the workmen were proceeding quickly to destroy the structure itself, which was in part effected, when an order was sent by the king, signifying that he was informed, that there was yet left standing of the fabric sufficient to make it a Cathedral for the bishop's see. The church being thus deprived of its western part to the tower, consists at present of the choir and two side aisles, with one of the transepts, making but two parts of its original cross; its

#### THE CATHEDRAL, BRISTOL.

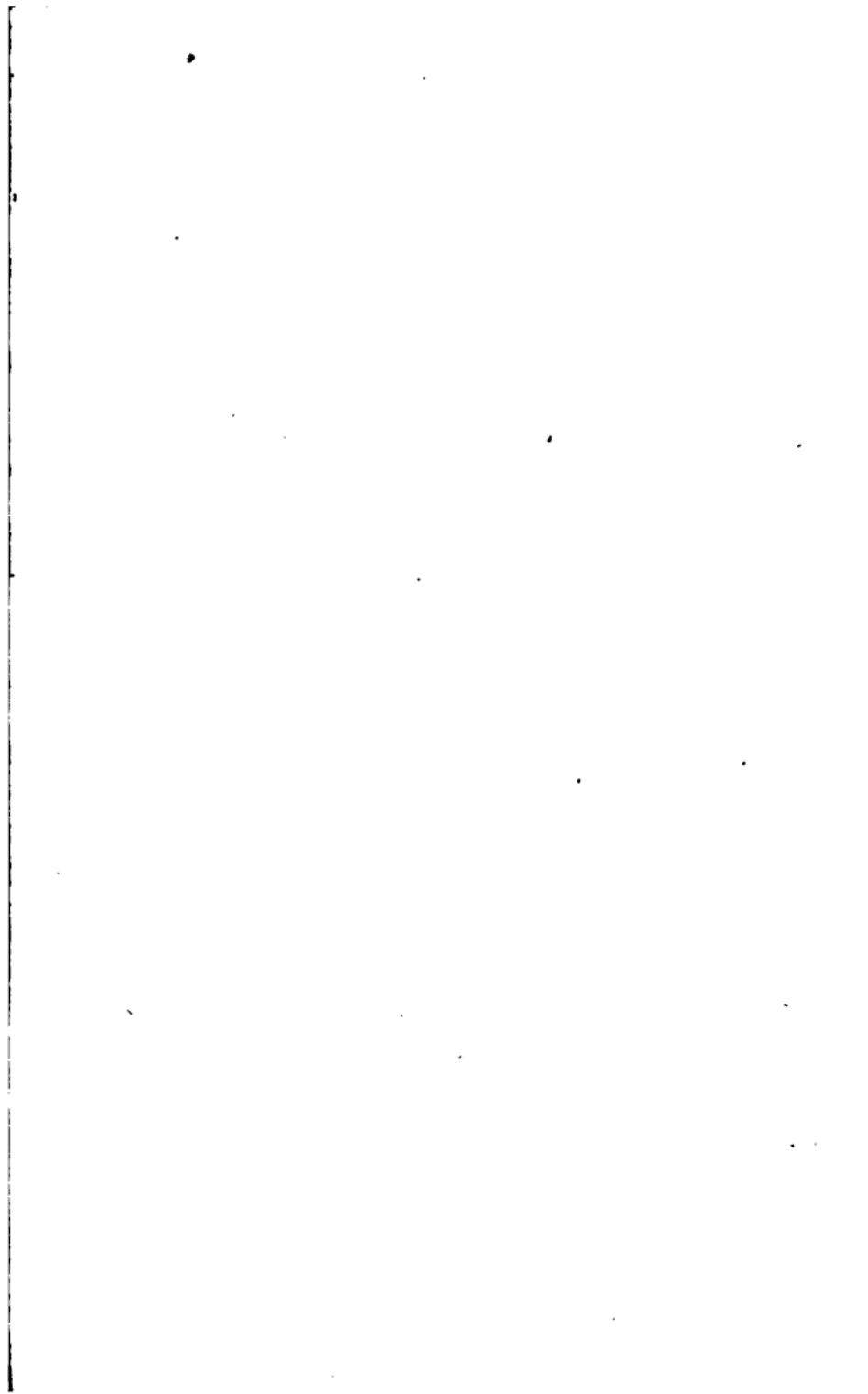
length is now from east to west 175 feet, of which the choir is 100 feet, so that in its perfect state it must have extended 100 feet further : the length of the cross aisle from north to south is 128 feet, the height of the tower 187 feet. It has a singular beauty not to be met with in any other cathedral, namely, that the two side aisles are of equal height with the nave and choir ; the breadth of the body and side aisles is seventy-three feet.

The College Green, which fronts the Cathedral, adds much to the beauty of the place ; it is laid out in pleasant walks with rows of lime trees, and is the resort of much company, who use it as a promenade ; it was formerly the burying-place of the dead, and is called in ancient deeds the cemetery of the abbot and convent, by whom a solemn procession was usually made around it on festival days. On digging up some old trees in the ninth of Henry VII. there was found here tombstones and human skulls. The like discoveries were made while preparing the foundation for houses a few years since.

The centre of the Green was once graced by a handsome cross, which was removed from the High Street hither, for the purpose of rendering the way more commodious for passengers : it remained in this spot for many years, but at length wanting repairs, Mr. Hoar at Stourton, apprehensive of its being neglected, obtained permission to remove it to his beautiful grounds, where it now remains (in the possession of sir Richard Hoar), an ornament much admired.

THE CATHEDRAL, BRISTOL.

Among other relics of the monastic buildings is a noble Gate-house adjoining the deanery; it has a large circular arch, containing a number of mouldings so fancifully interwoven with ornament, that it is difficult to trace the design; the arch is supported by beautiful columns. Somewhat of the elegance of this Gateway is abated by an elevation of the ground which has taken place at various times.





Bonne Véronne à madame Caudelonne

## BERRY-POMEROY CASTLE,

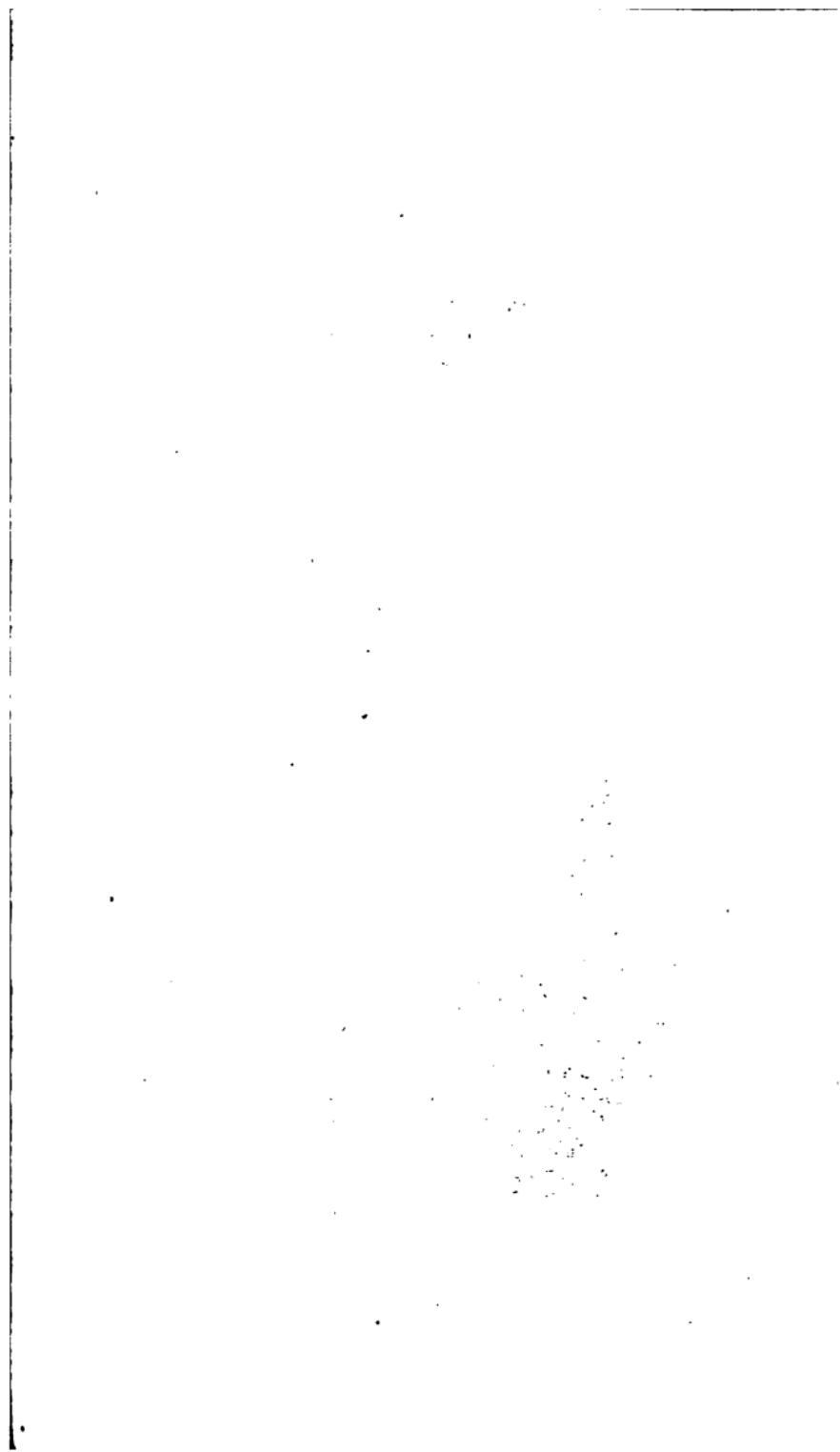
### DEVONSHIRE.

This magnificent fortress was erected by Ralph de la Pomeroy, who came into England with William the Conqueror; for the services that he rendered to that monarch in his expedition he was rewarded with fifty-eight lordships in this county: his progeny resided here till about the year 1550, when sir Thomas Pomeroy sold the manor to Edward Seymour, duke of Somerset, from whom it has descended to the present duke. During the civil wars in the reign of Charles I. the Castle was dismantled, since which time it has been in a state of decay, and now presents one of the most picturesque and delightful views that this part of the country affords. Within the court, and even on the ruins of the walls, are trees apparently of forty or fifty years growth, in a state of high luxuriance; these are intermixed with a variety of shrubs, profusely scattered among the broken walls, composing a scene of great interest and beauty.

The Castle is approached through a thick wood extending along the slope of a range of hills, that entirely intercepts any prospect to the south: the northern side is enclosed by a steep ridge, covered with oak, so that the Castle appears entirely secluded in a beautiful vale.

#### BERRY-POMEROY CASTLE.

Its form was originally quadrangular, having but one entrance, which was on the south side, between two hexagonal towers, through a double gateway. Over the first may still be seen the arms of the Pomeroy's. Above the gateway is a small room, supposed to be the chapel ; it is supported by three pillars and circular arches. The remains of the interior or quadrangle are of a much later date than the rest of the building : this quadrangle was intended for a most noble structure, and though never completed, it cost the Seymours no less than £30,000.





From Engraved & Published by J. D. Smith.

Statue of Cardinal Wolsey. Exford.

**STATUE OF CARDINAL WOLSEY,  
CHRIST CHURCH,**

***OXFORD.***

This elegant Statue is placed over the entrance to the hall of Christ Church college. It was executed by Francis Bird, and set up in 1719 by Dr. Jonathan Trelaney, bishop of Winchester. The cardinal whom it represents was one of the most extraordinary characters of his time. According to the most general report, he was the son of a butcher at Ipswich, where he was born in March 1471. He was educated at Magdalen college, and at the age of fifteen the progress of his studies had been so rapid, that he was admitted to the degree of bachelor of arts : he was soon after elected a fellow, and in process of time held the highest offices both in church and state. During this successful period of his life he built the palace at Hampton Court, which being furnished in a most sumptuous manner, he presented to the king.

About the year 1534 he began to erect the college of Christ Church, having obtained two bulls from the pope to enrich his foundation by the suppression of twenty-two priories and nunneries, the revenues of which were estimated at £2000. This proceeding gave great offence ; even the king himself appears to have expressed some dislike to the measure, though he probably received a

#### **STATUE OF CARDINAL WOLSEY.**

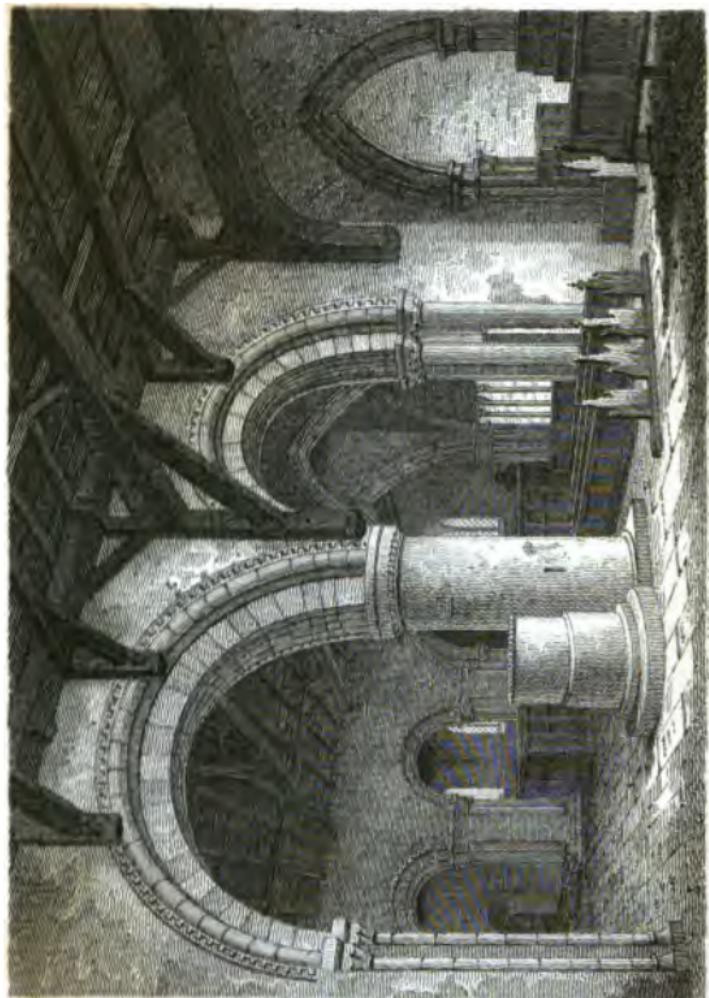
hint at this time, which led him shortly after to venture the experiment of a general suppression.

On the disgrace of Wolsey the progress of his college was interrupted; but it appears from his last correspondence with the king, that he entreated for nothing more earnestly than its completion—this the monarch, through the pressing instances of the members of the society and the university, at length consented to, though he deprived the cardinal of all the merit in the establishment, and transferred it wholly to himself, refounding it under the title of King Henry VIII.'s College, in Oxford.

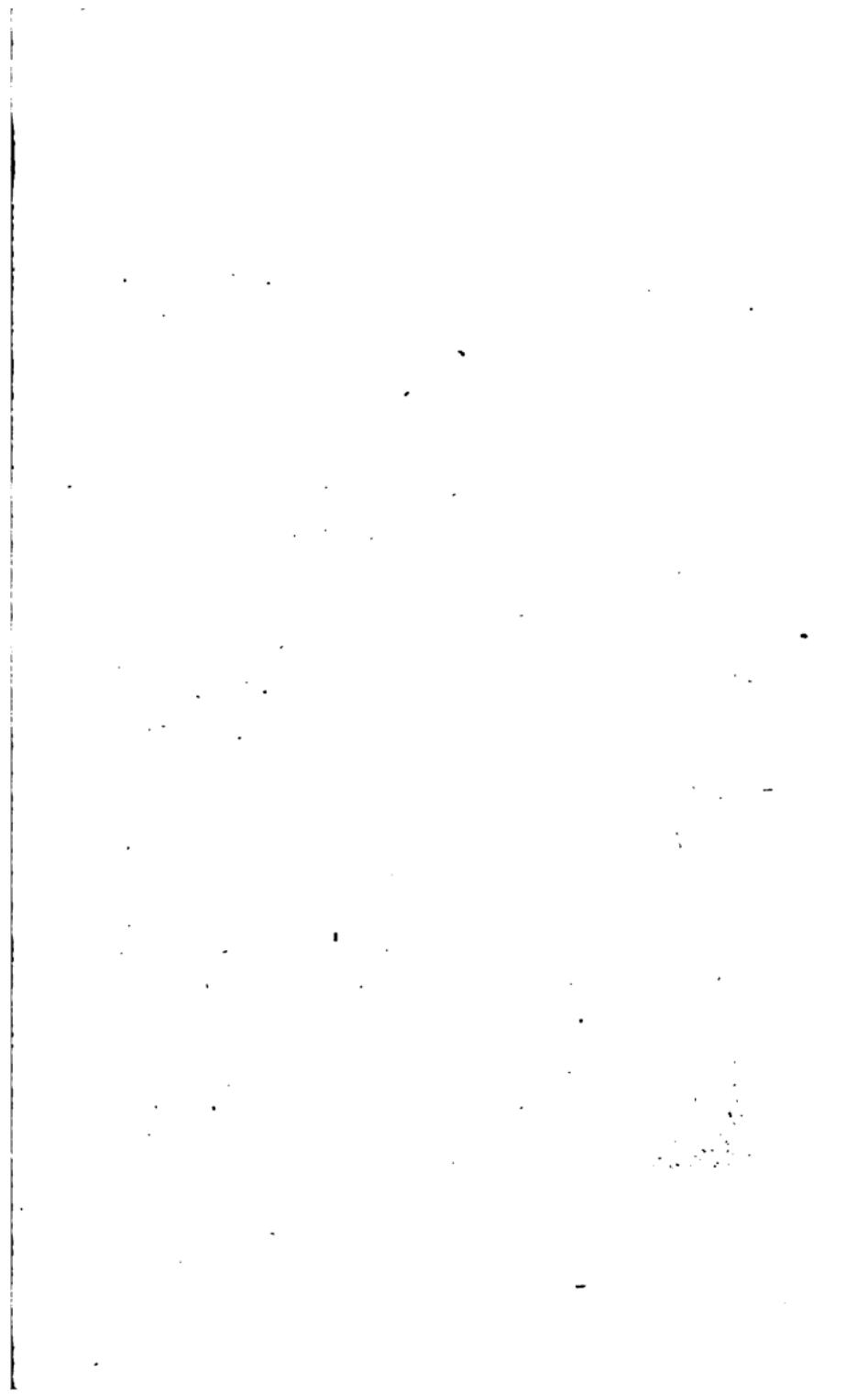
Wolsey, after being repeatedly tantalized by the king with the hope of his returning favour, died of a dysentery, occasioned by anxiety and fatigue, leaving behind him this admonitory expression—“ If I had served my God as diligently as I have served my king, he would not have given me over to my enemies.” He was buried in the abbey church of Leicester, though the exact spot is now unknown.

1

*A View of Elie Church, Fife-shire, Scotland.*



Engraved & Printed by J. D. Little, 1810.





Interior of Ely Church

CLEK, OR CLEA CHURCH,  
*LINCOLNSHIRE.*

CLEK is a small village in the wapentake of Bradley Haverstoc, in the division of Lindsey, situated about a mile south-east of Grimsby, and nearly the same distance from the south-west shore of the Humber ; it is remarkable for its very ancient Church, the nave of which is a curious piece of ancient architecture ; it was dedicated to the Holy Trinity and St. Mary, by Hugh, bishop of Lincoln, in the time of Richard I. in 1192, as is expressed by a Latin inscription in Saxon characters, cut on a piece of marble, and inlaid in a square compartment on the shaft of a circular column. This bishop was so much in repute for his sanctity, that after his death he was canonized by Honorius III. in 1221. He was a native of Grenoble, and one of the most illustrious prelates of the church of England in the reigns of Richard I. and king John. His virtue gained him great reverence from the people of his diocese, who were particularly afraid of his excommunications, having, as they thought, observed, that those who lay under that censure seldom failed of being visited in this world with some calamity. It is related as an instance of the zeal and resolution of this prelate, that by his own authority he ordered to be re-

#### CLEE CHURCH.

moved out of the church of Godstow in Oxfordshire, the tomb of Rosamond, mistress to Henry II. which stood in the middle of the choir, hung with black velvet, and wax tapers about it. Though he was informed that the tomb was placed there by the king's order, he contended that he ought not to suffer it, saying it was a shameful thing that the tomb of such a woman should stand in so honourable a place. He died about the year 1200 at London ; and being brought to Lincoln for interment at the time when that city was honoured with the presence of the kings of England and Scotland, the two monarchs went out to meet the body, and for some time bore the coffin upon their shoulders.

Clee Church consists of a nave, which has a middle and two side aisles, a cross aisle, a small chancel, and a pretty good square tower at the west end. The whole of the edifice is very small, the dimensions being as follow : the length of the nave thirty-seven feet, the width of the middle aisle eighteen feet, the south aisle thirteen feet, and the northern one eleven feet ; the length of the transept fifty-four feet, its width sixteen feet, and the extent of the chancel thirty feet by eighteen. The south aisle of the nave part is separated from the middle by two circular arches, decorated with zigzag, cable, and billet mouldings, these spring from one circular column and two demi-clustered ones, which have rude Norman capitals and ponderous square bases. The north aisle is separated by three smaller simicircular arches, one ornamented like

#### CLEE CHURCH.

those on the south, the other two quite plain ; these are sustained by square pillars with shafts of twisted and other ornamental work, sunk in every angle. The font consists simply of two plain cylindrical stones placed upon each other, the top one being hollowed into a basin sufficiently large to answer the purpose of immersion. The rest of the building is the heavy-pointed architecture, with clustered columns, the workmanship very good, and the materials durable. No sepulchral monuments are to be met with in this building, except part of a stone sometime inlaid with brass prefixed to the side of a pillar ; but in the porch lie four large flat stones, above which upon the wall is an inscription in old church text.

The custom of strewing the interior of the Church with green grass, mown for the express purpose, is here observed every Trinity Sunday, and a small piece of land which has been let for upwards of a century past for the trivial sum of thirteen shillings *per annum*, is said to have been left by a maiden lady that the performance of this ceremony might be annually observed to the honour of the Blessed and Holy Trinity.

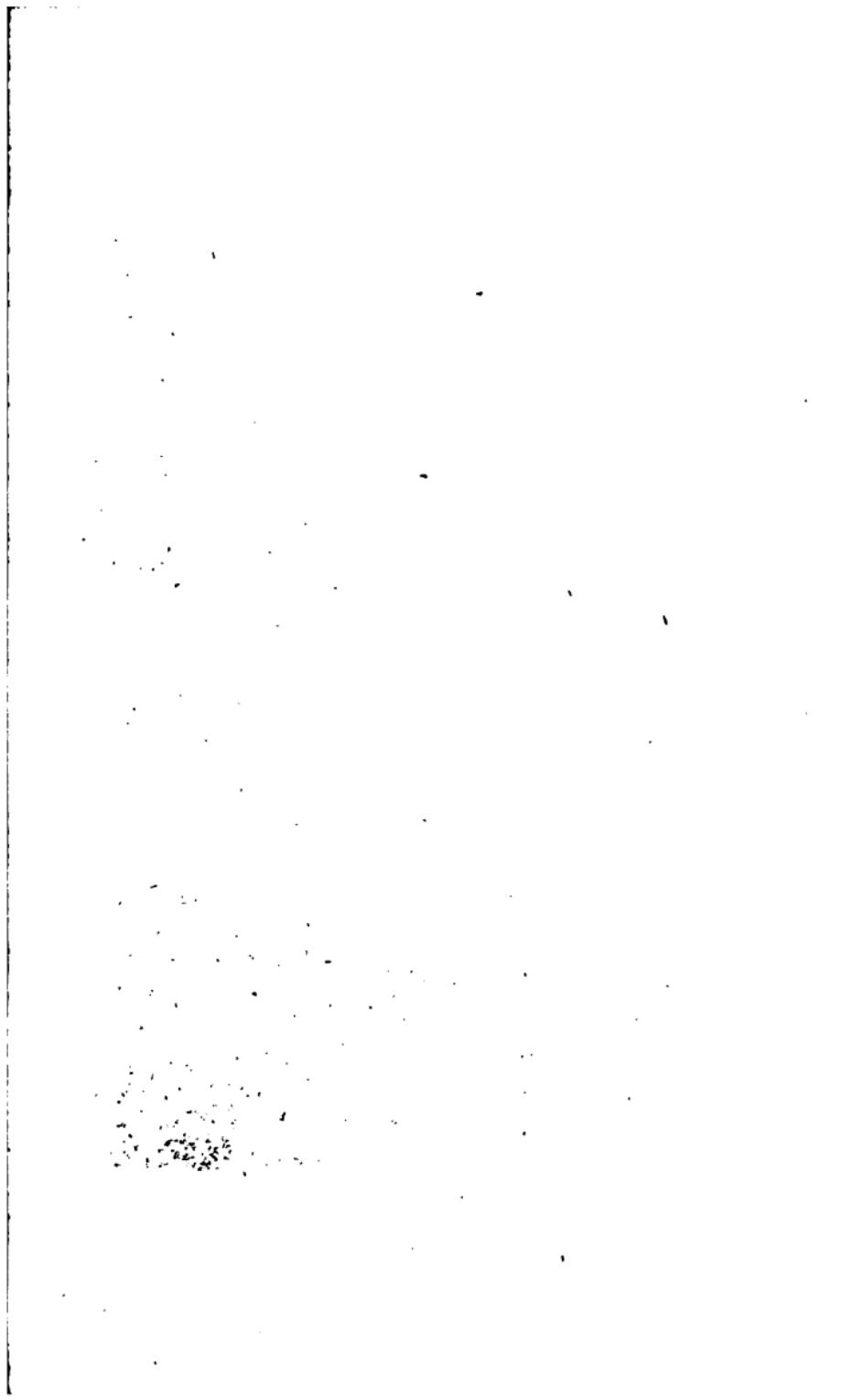
The manor of Clee belongs to the mayor and corporation of the ancient borough of Grimsby.

A mile eastward is Clee Thorpe, a township composed chiefly of fishermen's huts ; here is however a spacious and excellent bathing hotel, at present well conducted, and frequented during the summer months by

CLERE CHURCH.

genteel families and fashionable company ; it commands fine views of the river Humber, the opposite shore, the Spurn point, and German ocean.

About one mile to the westward is the site of Weelsby, or Wellow-Weelsby—a few scattered stumps of trees, and traces of foundations overgrown with herbage, are the only vestiges of this considerable village.





C. Shrewsbury Castle.

Drawn & Engraved by Stone Brothers

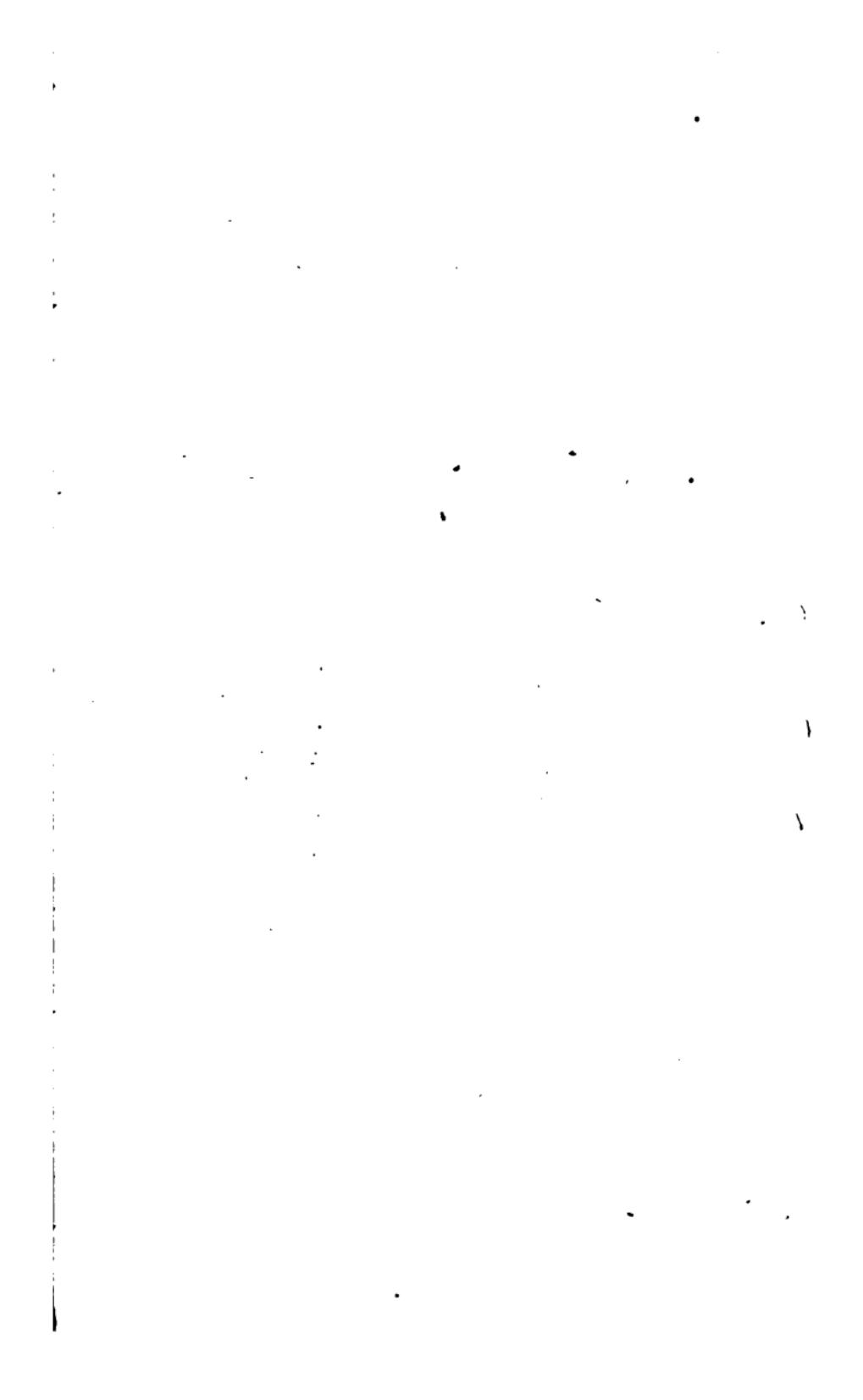
## SHREWSBURY CASTLE,

### SHROPSHIRE.

THE Castle of Shrewsbury was founded by Roger de Montgomery, who made it his residence, and the chief seat of his baronial power. In the reign of Henry I. it became a royal fortress by the forfeiture of Robert de Belesme, earl of Shrewsbury ; its defence was then entrusted to a constable, and part of its vast estate was parcelled out to various knights, upon condition of their keeping castle-ward for a certain number of days during war. This fortress was considered of great importance previously to the conquest of Wales ; but after the union it began to decay, and has undergone such various changes from the dilapidations of peaceable times, that it is hardly possible to form an idea of its original state. It stands upon a narrow neck of land, about the breadth of 500 yards, bounded by the windings of the river Severn. The approach from the town is by a handsome street, which has a slight ascent. The present buildings are of red stone, and consist of the keep, the walls of the inner court, and the great arch of the interior gate. The keep is now converted into a dwelling-house ; it consists of two round towers of equal size, embattled and pierced, connected by a square building about 100 feet

SHREWSBURY CASTLE.

in length. Attached to the south side of the court, and included within it, is a lofty mount, rising abruptly from the river's edge. The summit is surrounded with a wall, on one corner of which was a small watch-tower, erected for the purpose of observing an enemy at a distance; this has lately been almost rebuilt, and converted into a summer-room. The sides and top of the mount are cultivated, which give it a most beautiful appearance. The upper part of this tower may be seen over the Castle in the accompanying View, and on the right-hand extremity of the print appears the free-school, which is a lofty structure, founded by Edward VI.



*Ancient Knife Handle.*



*Prepared & Published by J. Sower, from a Drawing by the Rev. Mr. Dade, Nov. 5, 1812.*

## ANCIENT KNIFE HANDLE, LAKE, WILTSHIRE.

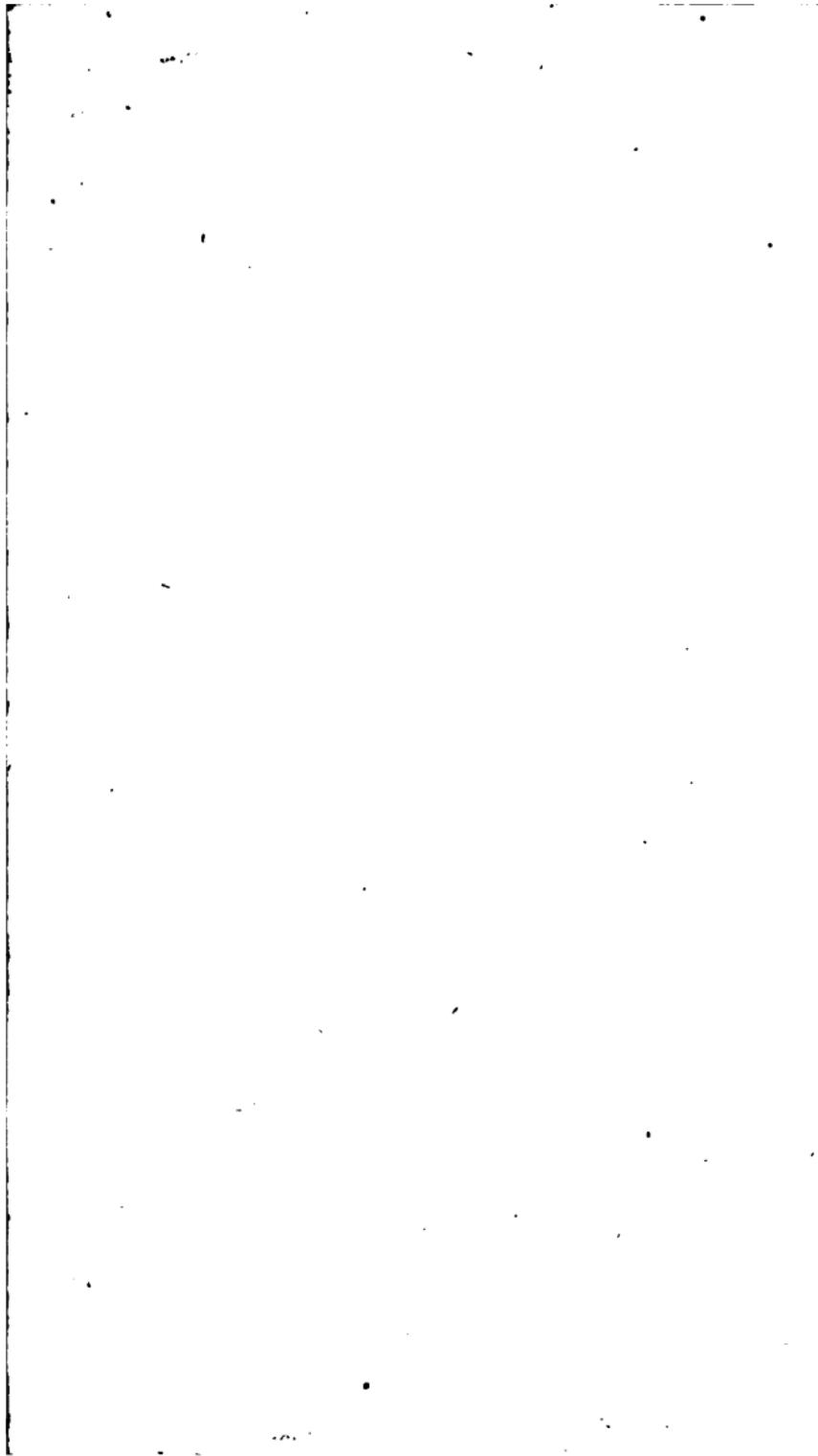
THE estate and manor of Lake is situated in the small parish of Wilsford and Lake, near Amesbury, and is the property of the rev. Edward Duke. The house is a beautiful specimen of the style of architecture used in the reign of Elizabeth; which is generally supposed to have been adopted in compliment to her, as partaking of the shape of the initials of her name. On the downs attached to the estate are many barrows, which having been investigated were found to contain a great variety of British antiquities.

In the year 1770, an accidental discovery was made of a deposit of silver coin within a bank behind the garden wall of Lake house; the coins were sixty-seven in number, and of the reigns of Henry V. and Richard III. they were placed loosely on each other in piles, and covered with the earth; and about the same period, eighteen shillings of the reign of Elizabeth were found beneath the roots of a large tree, which was blown down on the estate; by whom, or on what occasion such a deposit was made, it is useless to conjecture.

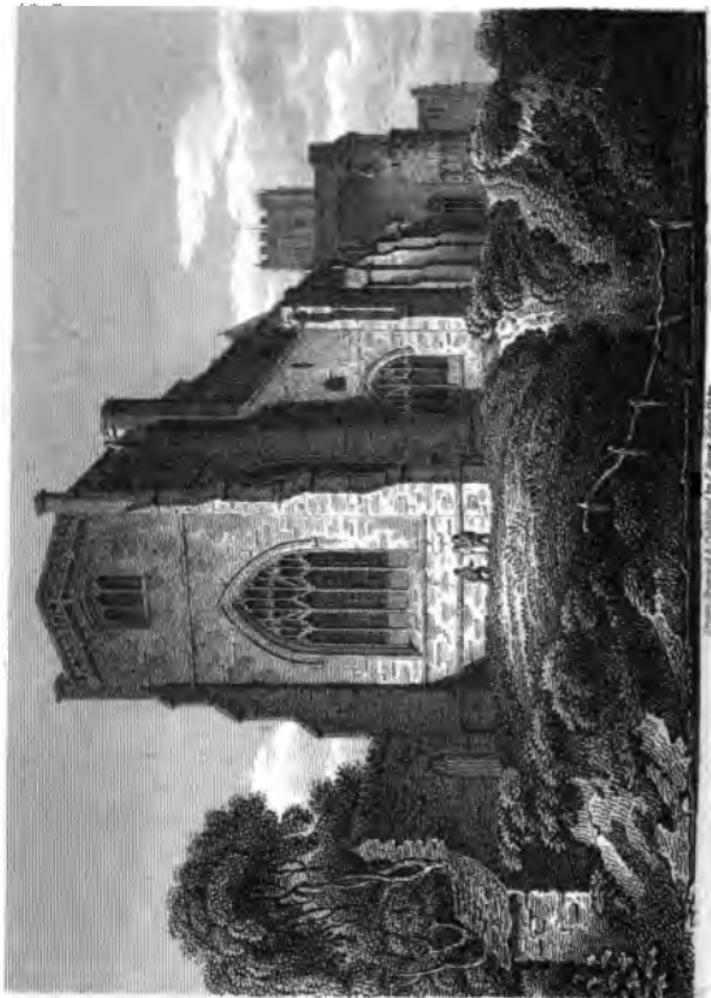
In the month of June in the present year, 1811, as a servant was at work near the above-mentioned wall,

#### **ANCIENT KNIFE HANDLE.**

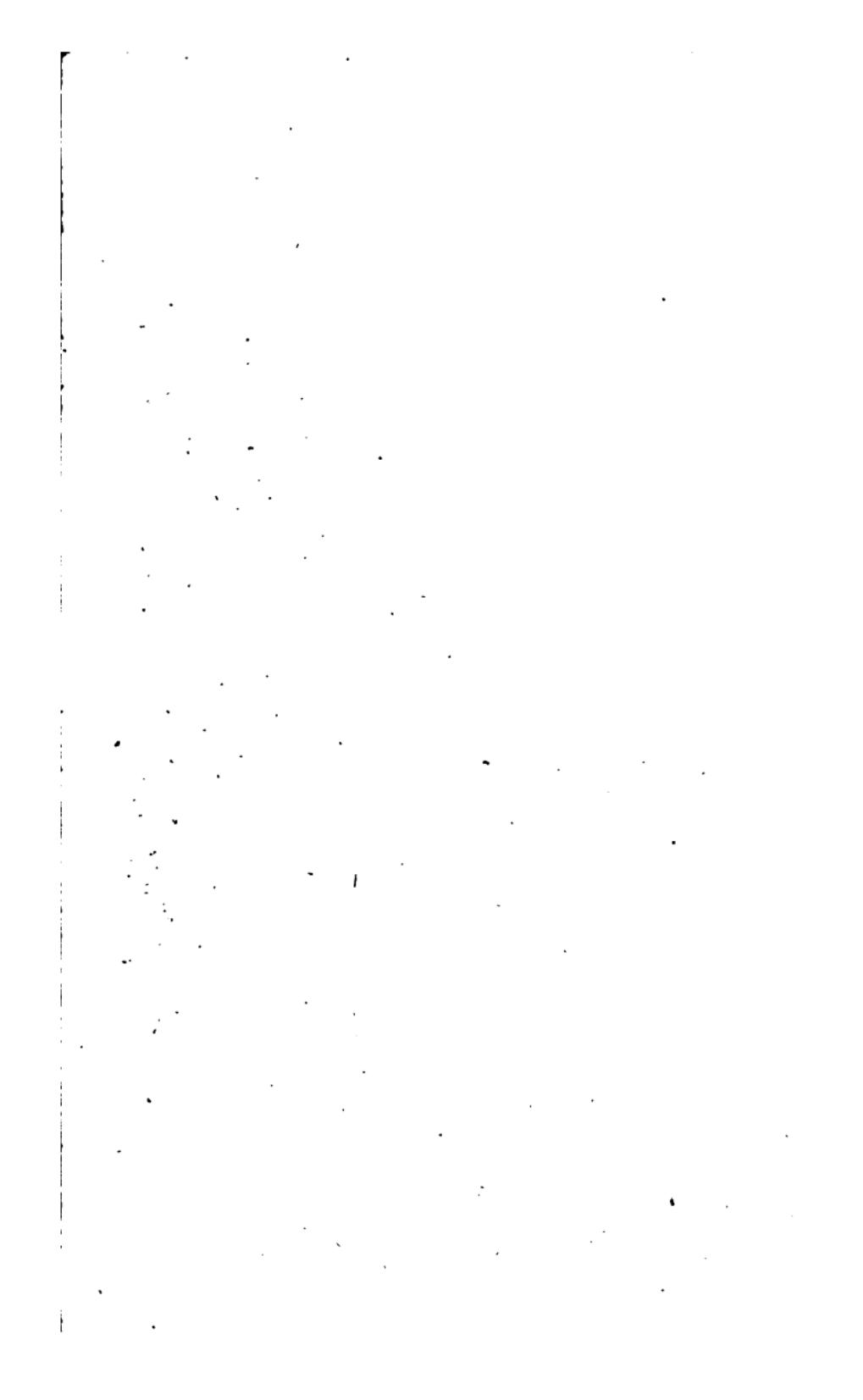
he found the curious and antique article, which is represented in the Plate of its real size, and consists of two figures, a warrior and a female ; it was probably the haft of a small knife or dagger, and is now used by its owner as the handle of a penknife, a blade having been affixed to it. This curious article is made of brass, and considering its great antiquity, is in good preservation ; the features of the figures are the parts mostly injured by wear ; the female holds in the right hand a small bag or purse, the custom of carrying which fell into disuse in the days of Elizabeth. This ancient haft is however most likely of an age considerably anterior to her reign, and from the costume in general, and the simple cross hilt of the sword attached to the warrior's side, it may not unjustly claim a date coeval with the crusades.

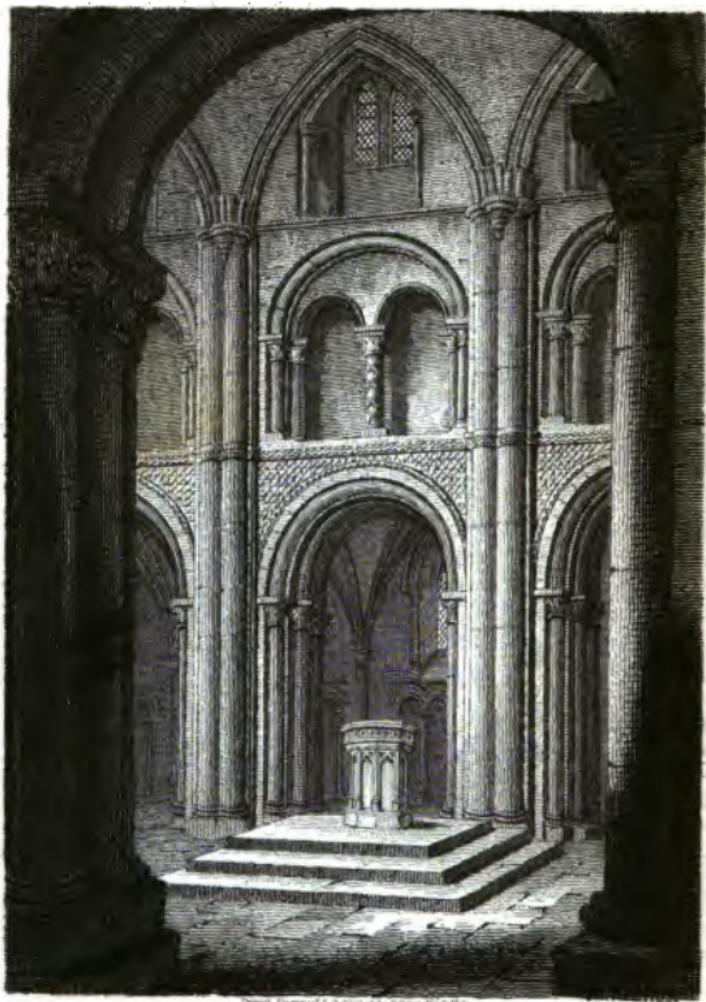


*East Front of Christchurch, Hants.*



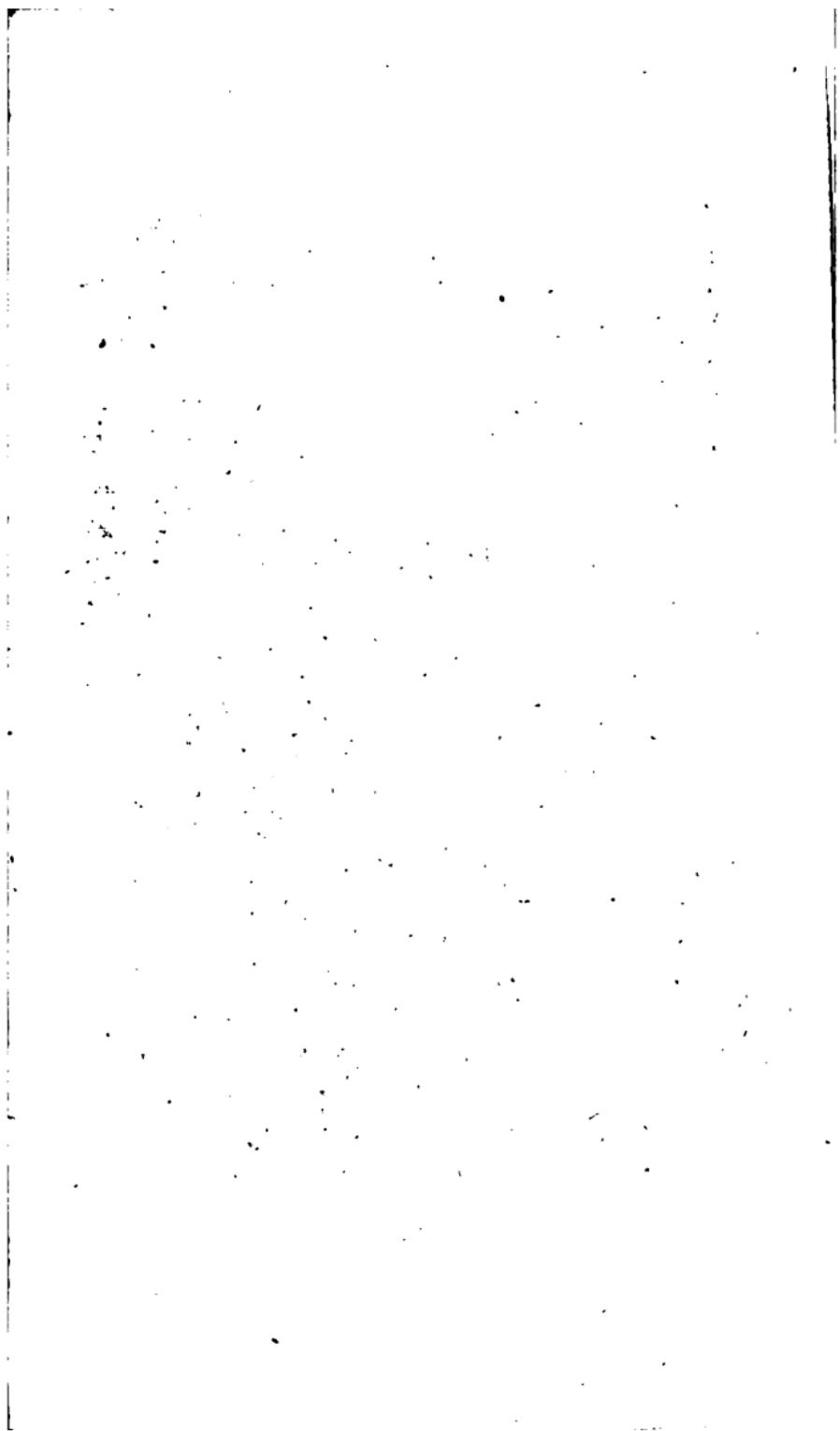
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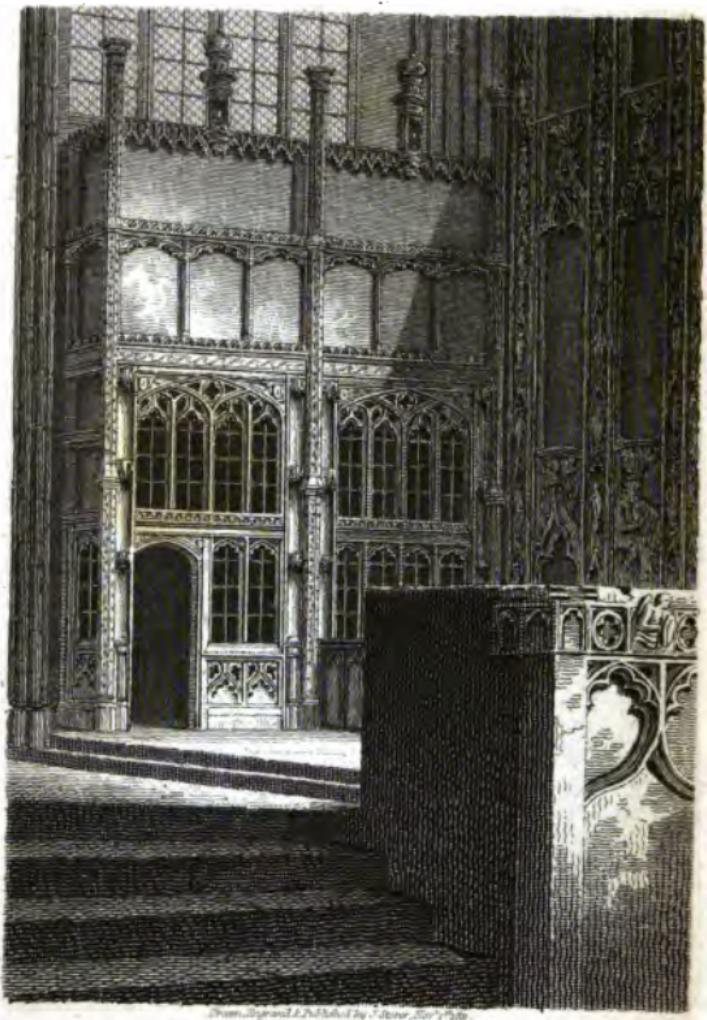




Engraved & engraved by J. C. St. John.

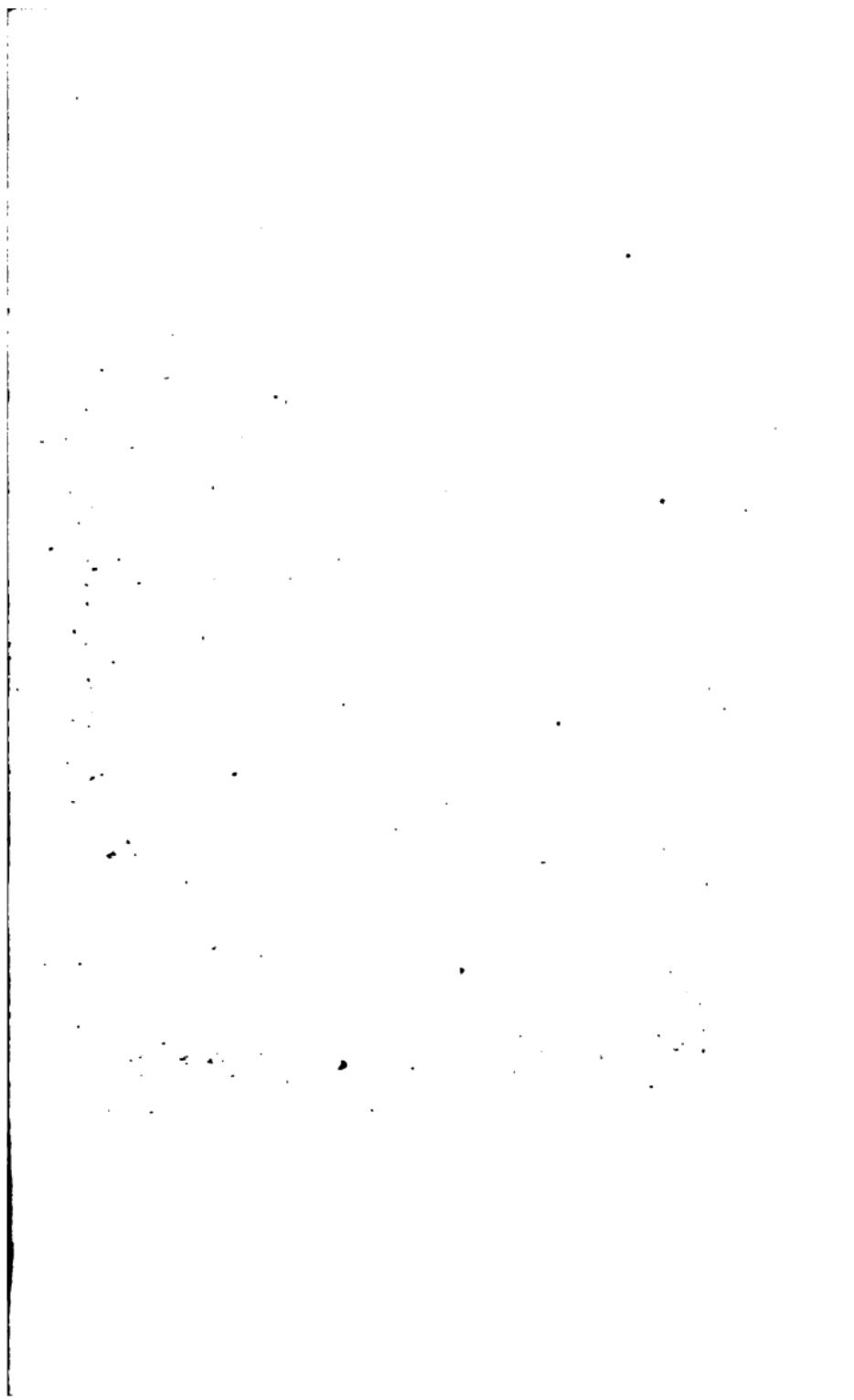
*Part of the Nave, Christchurch.*

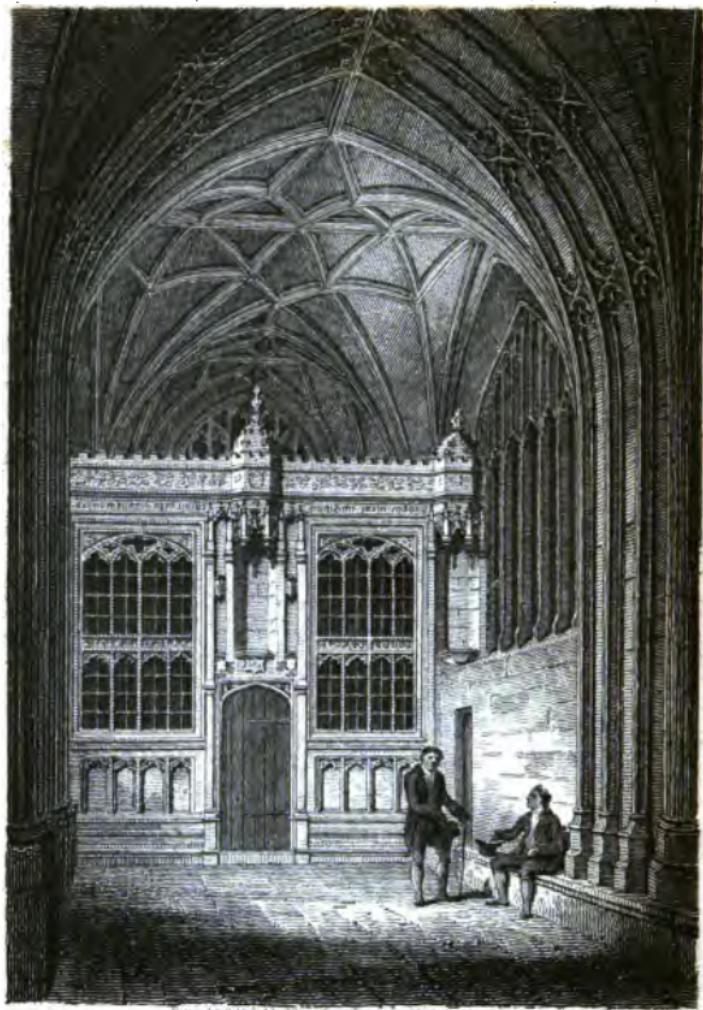




Printed & engraved & published by J. Dower, Newgate.

Chantry of Salisbury's Chapel, Christ Church.





Engraved & Published by J. Dugdale, from a Drawing by Wm. H. Worlidge, M.A.

Drapers' Chapel, Christchurch.

## **CHRISTCHURCH TWYNEHAM PRIORY, HAMPSHIRE.**

THERE was at Christchurch a house of secular canons of the order of St. Augustine, as early as the year of our Lord 636 ; but by whom, or at what particular time, it was founded, is not now known. In the reign of William Rufus we are informed, that the number of canons was twenty-four, of whom the head canon was denominated senior. Towards the latter end of the reign of king Stephen, it having become customary with the patrons of these conventional societies, to change the easy rule of secular canons for the more rigid discipline of regular ones, Baldwin de Redvers, the then patron of Christchurch, adopted the general practice, and, in the middle of the twelfth century, introduced into the monastery of Christchurch, a certain number of *canons regular* of the order of St. Augustine, and placed them under the government of a prior; permitting, at the same time, the secular canons to continue in the society until their respective deaths, though in a state of subordination to the new comers. The Church which before was dedicated to the Holy Trinity was now dedicated to Christ.

William Rufus had given this monastery to Ralph Flambard, who subsequently was bishop of Durham ; and,

### CHRISTCHURCH TWYNEHAM PRIORY.

under his superintendance, the whole of the buildings were rased to the ground, and others, of a more magnificent description, erected on their site. Several parts of the present Church are no doubt the remains of this work, particularly the immense piers of the nave ; some of the exterior parts of the northern and southern transepts ; and nearly the whole lower part of the south wall of the Church, extending from what is called the lead-house, at the western extremity, to the southern transept.

Subsequently to the time of Flambard, this Church appears to have undergone innumerable alterations ; the consequence of which has been, that it affords specimens of almost all the various stiles of ecclesiastical architecture which have been in use from that period until the dissolution.

The plan of the present building gives a nave, with a tower at the western extremity ; north and south aisles ; north and south transepts ; choir, with north and south aisles ; and lady chapel at the eastern extremity. There is a crypt under each transept and another under the high altar. The whole exterior length of the Church is about 311 feet ; the width of the nave is twenty-seven feet ; the interior length of the Church, at the transepts, about 110 feet ; and the height of the tower 120 feet.

In our account of this magnificent edifice it is necessary to state, that until about the end of the year 1809, nearly all the finest parts of the interior were concealed by innumerable coats of whitewash, and even of plaster,

CHRISTCHURCH TWYFELHAM PRIORY.

and that many of them were sadly defaced. Heaps of rubbish had accumulated to a great depth in several places, but more particularly in the southern transept ; and in the two oratories, at the east side of the northern transept, several of the windows were blocked up, some with lath and plaster, and others even with stone and brick. The upper part of the fine old font lay broken at the foot of one of the piers on the south side of the nave ; and a modern font, singular only for the rudeness and inelegance of its form, had been erected in its place. The hatched work over the arches of the nave had been plastered up with a trowel ; and a lath and plaster partition was placed so far forward, across the front of the arches immediately above this, as wholly to conceal the shaft of the centre pillar of each. The stone screen, which separates the nave from the choir, had all its lower parts concealed by a range of pews, nearly eight feet in height, which had been formed against it. The noble and almost unrivalled screen at the high altar was painted in oil, the figures and other prominent parts white, and the back of the niches and all the retired parts *dark blue*. The altar rail was a dark red balustrade of the rudest workmanship. The stalls of the choir were almost white with age. The elegant chapel of Caen stone, at the end of the south aisle of the choir, erected by John Draper, the last prior, had all its beauty hidden by whitewash, which in some of the angles was nearly half an inch in thickness ; and the

CHRISTCHURCH TWYNEHAM PRIORY.

chapel of Our Lady behind the high altar was in a most deplorable state.

At the suggestion and by the exertions of the rev. Mr. Bingley, the curate of Christchurch, a subscription, which in the whole has amounted to about £250, was begun for the purpose of getting rid of these and numerous other defects, and of restoring the Church to, at least something like, its pristine state. Under his superintendance and direction, the whole of the plaster and whitewash have been cleansed from the walls; the defective parts mended; the rubbish and filth entirely removed; seven of the windows opened and re-glazed; the ancient font restored; the partitions across the first story of arches in the nave removed back to the distance of about three feet; the pews in front of the screen taken down, and others erected in place of them, but in such a situation as to leave a free passage next the screen about seven feet in width. The altar screen has been entirely cleansed and coloured in distemper to imitate stone. The altar railing has been taken away and a new one placed in its stead. The stalls of the choir have been cleansed and oiled so as to restore them nearly to their original appearance; and numerous other judicious improvements have been effected.

Of the windows which have been opened, one is shewn in our View of the northern entrance to the Church, and another in that of the countess of Salisbury's chapel: the latter is the large window over the chapel. In this

#### CHRISTCHURCH TWYNEHAM PRIORY.

view is also to be seen the extremity of the new altar railings. The font is represented in our View of the nave ; and, in the same View, the effect of removing the before-mentioned lath-plaster partition is likewise observable. The engraving of Draper's chapel will shew, on a small scale, how much has been done towards the restoration of the whole of this highly-interesting fabric, by cleansing it from whitewash and plaster.

The two transepts which, formerly, were receptacles only for rubbish, are now filled with pews.

On entering the Church by the great northern porch we pass through the splendid door-way represented in the title-page to this volume. Standing in the north aisle, at the distance of about four feet from the door, we made our drawing of the nave, which, in this part, is entirely free from pews. The massive piers of the nave, with the story of circular, and upper story of pointed arches, give to the building a singularly grand effect. A narrow gallery extends along all the upper parts of the Church, from the transepts to the western extremity. The font is octagonal, and has, at the alternate angles, the initials I. D. and H. R. It was no doubt formed in the time of John Draper (the first of that name), who was prior of Christchurch in the beginning of the reign of king Henry VII. The screen separating the nave from the choir, and on which the organ was placed about twenty years ago, has been of very elegant workmanship. It contains twelve niches for statues,

#### **CHRISTCHURCH TWYNEHAM PRIORY.**

each niche supported by three short columns placed in a triangle, the capitals of which, enriched with foliage, are all different.

On the east side of the northern transept there are two oratories that contain some very interesting remains of ancient architecture.

The choir is a work of great magnificence ; the altar screen and the countess of Salisbury's chapel, on the north side of the communion rails, constitute its most important features. The former, the production of the fourteenth century, is thirty-three feet in height, and twenty-one feet in width. It is entirely of stone, and contains several figures as large as life, and betwixt forty and fifty others of smaller size.

Lady Salisbury's chapel contains, particularly in its interior, an infinity of the most exquisite and elaborate workmanship. It was founded by Margaret de la Pole, countess of Salisbury, who was beheaded, on a suspicion of treason, in the early part of the reign of Henry VIII. The tragical fate of this lady was occasioned by the imprudence of her son, cardinal Pole, who, while resident at Rome, was engaged in the publication of numerous satires against Henry VIII. on account of his alterations in religion. This incensed the king so highly, that he made all the family and friends of the cardinal feel the effects of his displeasure ; accordingly he procured the attainder of the countess for holding a correspondence with her son. This however was not done without great

#### CHRISTCHURCH TWYNEHAM PRIORY.

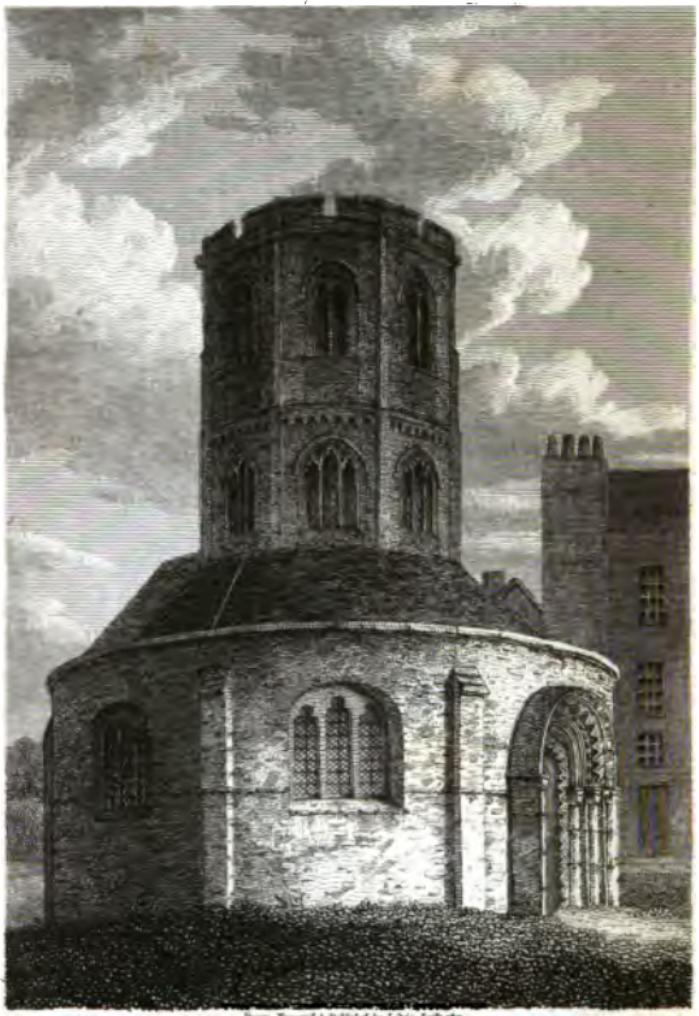
opposition in the parliament ; many contended, that the condemning of persons without hearing their defence was a breach of the most sacred and unalterable rules of justice. The opposition was so great, that it was found necessary to appeal to the judges for their decision in the case, who, being artfully dealt with by the minister Cromwell, declared, that the parliament being the supreme court of the realm, from which there could be no appeal, no man has a right to dispute the validity of their sentences, of what nature soever they might be. This report being made to the parliament, the countess was condemned by a sentence which established a precedent the most pernicious that had ever been seen in England.

Besides the countess of Salisbury's chapel, there are three others still left in the church of Christchurch, and in an excellent state of preservation. One of these, at the eastern extremity of the south aisle of the choir, was built in 1529, by John Draper, the last prior. The stone of which this chapel is constructed, is similar to that of the chapel of the countess of Salisbury, and its ornamental parts are likewise very highly finished. The tombstone of this prior was discovered by Mr. Bingley on removing some of the pews in the nave, not far from the entrance into the choir. In the month of February, 1811, the grave was opened, in the presence of the churchwardens. The body had been interred in a thick wooden coffin, which was nearly crumbled to dust ; the skeleton was perfect, and had, evidently, not been dis-

CHRISTCHURCH TWYNEHAM PRIORY.

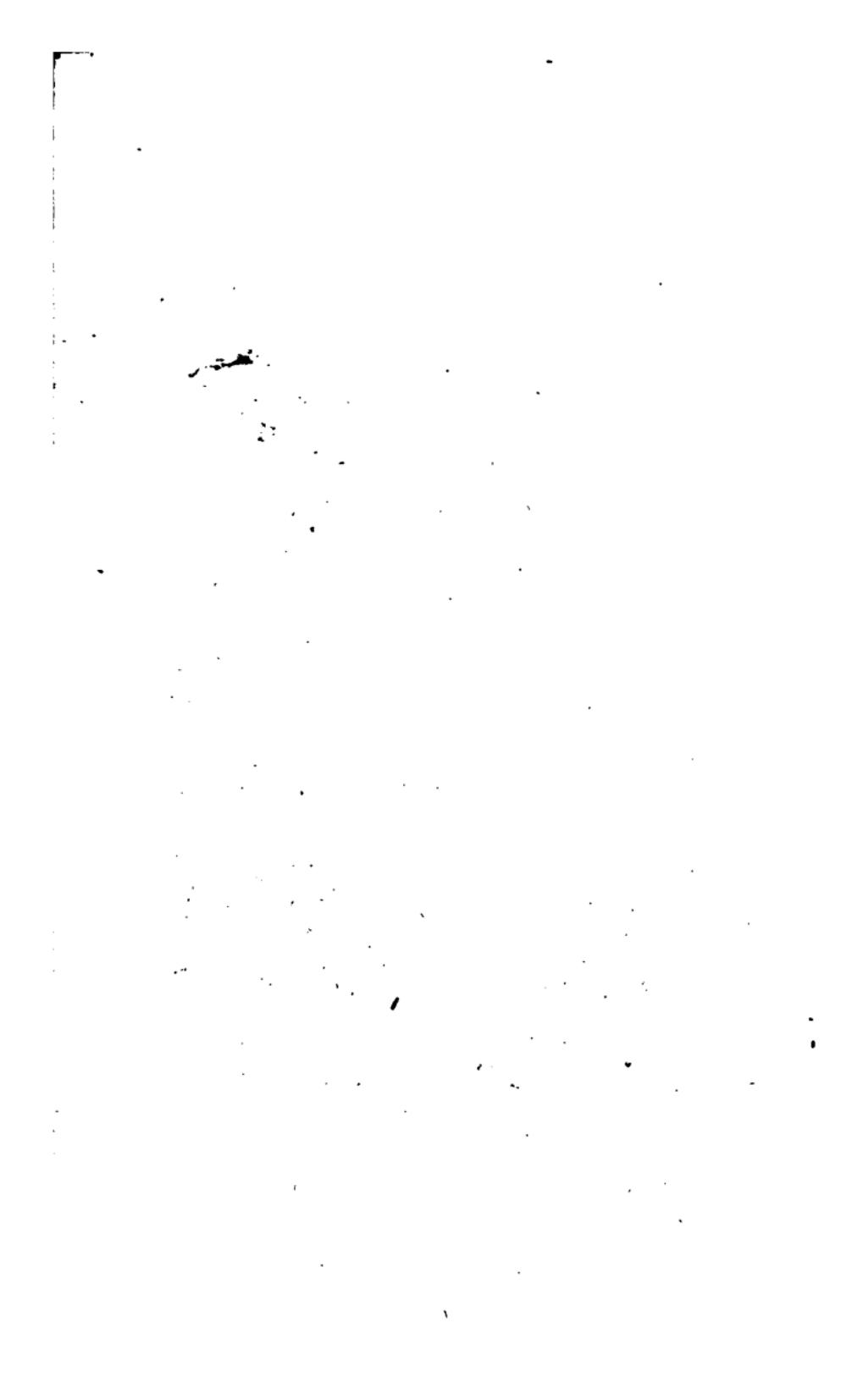
turbed. The teeth however were much decayed. After placing the head in the same position in which it was found, the grave was again closed, and the stone put over it as before. The inscription is in Gothic characters round the edge of the stone. “ M IUMBA JOHIS DRAPER : VICESSIMI SEXTI PRIORIS HUIUS ECCLESIE : QUI OBIIT XXIX<sup>o</sup> DIE MESIS SEPTIS ANNO DNI : MIL<sup>o</sup>. CCCCLX<sup>o</sup> CUIUS ANIME PROPITIETUR DEUS. AMEN.”





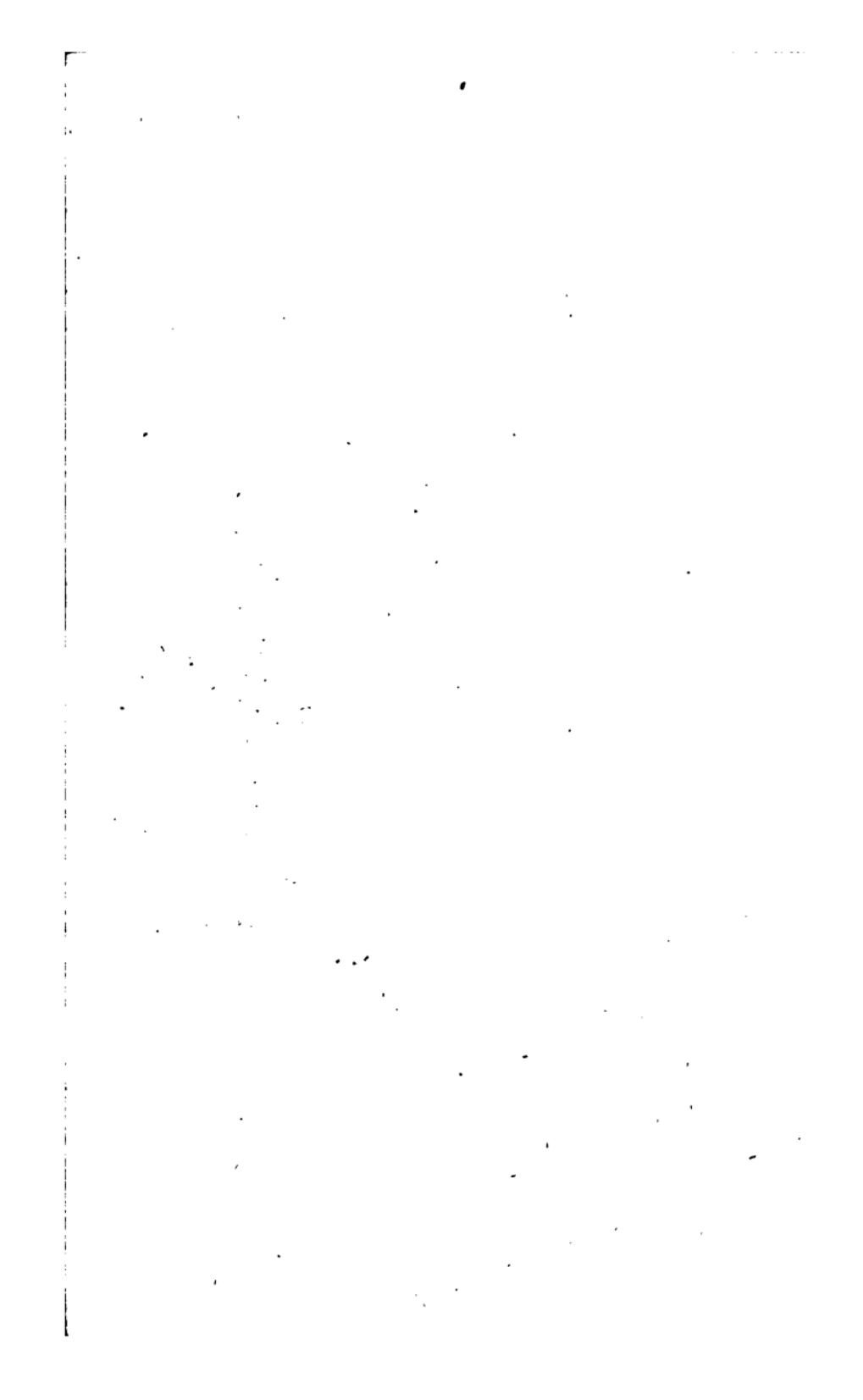
*Drawn & Engraved & Published by J. C. Smith.*

*St Sepulchre's Church, Cambridge.*



(2) Interior of St. Ipolitus' Church, Cambridge.







Drawn, Engraved & Published by Craig, Nov. 22, 1816.

*Stone Font St Peter's Church, Cambridge.*

## ST. SEPULCHRE'S CHURCH,

*CAMBRIDGE.*

THE proper name of this edifice is “**The Church of the Holy Sepulchre in the Jewry**,” an appellation which generated the erroneous opinion that it was originally a Jewish synagogue; but Mr. Essex, whose observations on the origin and antiquity of Round Churches, with a particular reference to this at Cambridge, occupies a considerable portion of the sixth volume of the **Archæologia**—after a most attentive investigation of the subject affirms, that it was built by the knights templars, or by some persons concerned in the croisades, who took the church of the Holy Sepulchre at Jerusalem for their model. “There can be no doubt,” continues Mr. Essex, “either of the time when this Church was built, or that they who built it intended it should represent the church of the Resurrection or Holy Sepulchre at Jerusalem; and as far as can be judged of the description given of that church, this is the best copy we have of it in England; but a perfect resemblance must not be expected where the smallness of one compared to the other would make an exact imitation no better than a large model, which could be of no use but to amuse the curious.”—“It will be easier,” observes our author, in another part of his

#### ST. SEPULCHRE'S CHURCH.

inquiry, "to ascertain the age than the founder of it;" and afterwards expresses his decided opinion, drawn from the consideration of the original building, that it was erected in the reign of Henry I. or between the first and second croisade, and is the oldest church of the kind in England. The round form of this Church excites curiosity, although its primary shape has been in some degree affected by subsequent buildings, and, in its present state, appears under many disadvantages. "It is evidently," says the gentleman above quoted, "a story higher than its original architect intended it should be. This alteration was made in the reign of Edward II. for the reception of bells, when the windows were also altered, the chancel added, and the ornaments about the door defaced, and partly hid by a wooden portal." The interior of the most ancient part of this building is completely circular, with a peristile of eight round pillars of great magnitude, and far greater solidity than could be necessary to support the conical roof with which it was originally furnished. The receding arch over the west door is ornamented in the usual style of the early Norman architecture. This entrance was probably the only one when the Church was first built, but the circular area is now thrown open to the chancel. The pillars of the upper portico were formerly hidden by a projecting gallery, but this has been lately removed, and the inside of the fabric repaired and whitewashed.

Who were the possessors of this Church for some

### ST. SEPULCHRE'S CHURCH.

period prior to the dissolution of the knights templars in the year 1313 is unknown; but a few years after that event the advowson appears to have belonged to Barnwell priory, in which the presentation continued till the suppression of religious houses in the reigns of Henry VIII.; it is now in the gift of the bishop of Ely.

In the parish of St. Sepulchre's was formerly an ancient structure called Bede's House, wherein some persons have supposed that the venerable Bede lived and studied. "But," says Mr. Gough, in his addition to Camden, "besides the improbability that a common dwelling-house built in the seventh century should be standing in the sixteenth, and the uncertainty whether Bede ever lived at Cambridge; it is most likely that it was erected for the reception of the beadsmen, whose office was to pray for those who were engaged in the wars for recovering the Holy Land from the Saracens, and therefore not improperly called the Beads' House, which name it might retain some centuries after the use of it was forgotten, and the Bead's House would then be easily mistaken for Bede's House."

Not far from the round Church is the conduit, erected in the year 1614, at the charge of Thomas Hobson, the celebrated carrier, who rendered himself particularly famous by furnishing the students of the university with horses, and making it an unalterable rule, that every horse should have an equal share of rest and fatigue; he would never let one out of his turn—from whence the

ST. SEPULCHRE'S CHURCH.

proverbial saying, “ Hobson’s choice, *this or none.*” The greatest genius could not have taken a more effectual way to transmit his memory to a grateful posterity, than by erecting the aqueduct and conduit.

The following whimsical epitaph was written by Milton, on the death of Hobson :

Here lies old Hobson ; Death hath broke his girt,  
And here, alas ! hath laid him in the dirt ;  
Or else the ways being foul, twenty to one,  
He’s here stuck in a slough, and overthrown.  
’Twas such a shifter, that if truth were known,  
Death was half glad when he had got him down ;  
For he had, many time, this ten year full,  
Dodg’d with him betwixt Cambridge and *The Bull.*  
And surely Death could never have prevail’d  
Had not his weekly course of carriage fail’d ;  
But lately finding him so long at home,  
And thinking how his journey’s end was come,  
And that he had ta’en up his latest inn  
In the kind office of a chamberlin,  
Show’d him his room where he must lodge that night,  
Pull’d off his boots, and took away the light :  
If any ask for him, it shall be sed,  
“ Hobson has supt, and ’s newly gone to bed.”

## STONE FONT, AND ENTRANCE TO ST. PETER'S CHURCH,

*CAMBRIDGE.*

THE Church of St. Peter's, commonly called St. Peter's on the Hill and St. Giles's Church, are consolidated into one benefice, but the parishes are considered as distinct. These churches stand at the north end of the town of Cambridge, and are of considerable antiquity. St. Peter's is very small ; its interior is extremely plain and devoid of interest, and contains nothing worthy of notice, excepting its Stone Font, which is perhaps as great a curiosity of the kind as any in this kingdom. It is evidently of a very early date, most probably coeval with the most ancient parts of the building itself, which, from its south entrance, appears to have been erected soon after the Norman conquest. The form of the arch is circular, without ornament ; the pillars which support the arches are very slender for their height, and have capitals which are a faint imitation of the Ionic. The present elevation of the Font is about three feet four inches ; the basin is of sufficient size for immersing the infant intended for baptism. At each corner of the Font are figures, in some respects representing mermen or mermaids, having each two tails ; they are encircled round the loins, with an ornamented belt, and with hands, each em-

**STONE FONT, AND ENTRANCE TO ST. PETER'S CHURCH.**

bracing one of the tails. The border of the basin has an indented sculpture, but much mutilated. The shaft on which the Font is elevated is a fluted pillar, presenting four fronts, its capital being a series of semicircular mouldings, gradually projecting and surmounted by one broad band, on which the basin rests.

This very curious relic of antiquity had not, previously to the present annexed Plate, been introduced to the notice of the antiquarian world, neither has any attention been paid to it by any historian of Cambridge, with whose writings the Editors and Proprietors of the Ancient Reliques are acquainted.





Engraved & Published by J. Engle, 200 Fleet-street, from a Sketch by L. Heywood.

*S. John's Church Devizes. Wilt.*

## ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, DEVIZES,

### WILTSHIRE.

Devizes is a populous town in Wiltshire, distant eighty-seven miles and a half from London, and probably derives its name from the latin word *devisa*, signifying division, a name supposed to have been conferred on this town from its being anciently divided between the king and bishop of Salisbury: it is a town of great antiquity, and asserted by Dr. Stukely to have been the Punctuobice of Ravennus. The Romans enclosed it with a vallum and ditch, in the last of which the inhabitants have made a road almost round the town; but in many places both the ditch and vallum are still visible; they took in the castle, which was a Roman work, erected in a fine situation: it was well fortified by nature; and in after times rendered nearly impregnable by Roger, bishop of Salisbury, although it is now destroyed. Many Roman remains, consisting principally of pottery and coins, have been found here; and not far from the town, under the ruins of an ancient building enclosed with Roman brick, several brass statues of heathen deities were discovered, supposed to have been there deposited in the early Roman times.

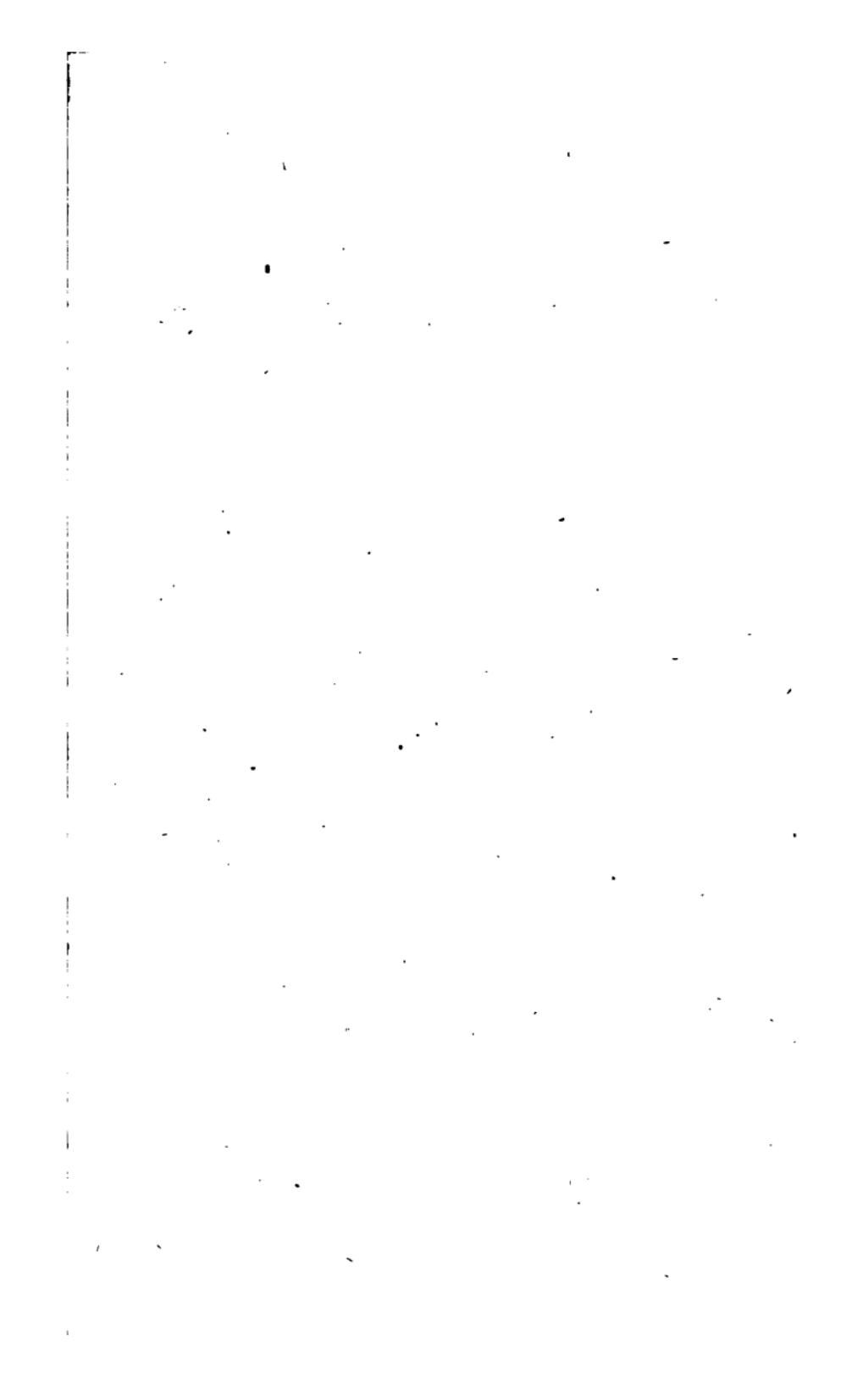
At Devizes are two churches. The Church of St.

**ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, DEVIZES.**

John's exhibits a fine specimen of the Norman style of architecture in its tower and in some of its internal decorations ; the lower parts have been much altered, since the first erection of the Church, and from the forms of the arches and ornaments, appear to have been added about the reign of Henry IV.

Devizes is a corporate borough, consisting of a mayor, recorder, ten magistrates, and twenty-four common councilmen, who have the liberty of making what number of burgesses they please, all of whom have the right of voting for members of parliament.

The principal manufactures of Devizes are serges, kerseymeres, and broad cloths ; the latter branches afford employment to upwards of 1000 persons.



(c) Interior of the Church of St. Martin, Banks.

Printed by J. & C. Green, London, after a Sketch by Mr. G. E. Street.







Chaplin High Street Gt. Marlborough.

Printed by J. Long, Cornhill, London, at the expense of the Author.

## THE CHURCH, AND ANCIENT CHAPEL, GREAT MARLOW,

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

GREAT MARLOW is situated in a very pleasant part of the county of Buckinghamshire, near the banks of the Thames. It is supposed by Camden to derive its name from the chalk commonly called *marle*, "which," he observes, "being laid on the land hereabouts, communicates such new vigour to it, that the next year it is fit for tillage, and yields a double increase." Mr. Langley remarks on this passage, that the learned antiquary has erred both in his derivation and illustration of the name; "for marble and chalk are two distinct substances, and their properties opposite. Of the former too small a quantity is found here to give name to a parish, and the Saxon name for chalk cannot be strained to this etymology. Marlow is called in *Doomsday Book Merlaw*, which appears to me to signify a mere, or standing water, and this might then be the situation of the place; for near the town are some peat moors, in which stags' horns and other animal remains have been found; and these moors were probably standing waters at that period."

The manor of Marlow, previous to the conquest, belonged to Algar, earl of Mercia, from whose son it was taken by king William and given to his queen Matilda.

#### CHURCH AND ANCIENT CHAPEL, GREAT MARLOW.

Henry I. who inherited the manor from his mother, bestowed it on Robert Millefont, his natural son, from whom, after various marriages, it became the property of Gilbert, earl of Clare. In his posterity it continued till the reign of Edward II. whose unhappy favourite, Hugh Le Despencer the younger, having married Eleanor, the heiress of the Clares, obtained possession, but soon after lost both estates and life. The attainder of the Spencers being reversed by parliament, their possessions were restored, and Marlow continued in this family till Isabel, daughter of Thomas, lord Despencer, earl of Gloucester, who was degraded, and beheaded at Bristol, conveyed it by marriage to Richard Beauchamp, earl of Warwick, who dying in 1439, was succeeded by his son Henry. "This hopeful branch," says Dugdale, "was cropped in the flower of his youth, before the fruit of his heroic disposition could be manifested to the world, for he died at Hanley castle, in Worcestershire, June 11, 1445, being but twenty-two years of age." On the death of Henry's infant daughter, who survived him but a short time, this manor devolved to his sister's husband, Richard Nevil, afterwards created earl of Warwick, who became so eminently conspicuous for his conduct during the reigns of Henry VI. and Edward IV. that he was emphatically termed the king-maker. In the convulsions that ensued, the earl's property changed owners; for an act was passed in the third year of Henry VII. ordering restitution of all the

#### CHURCH AND ANCIENT CHAPEL, GREAT MARLOW.

estates of which the countess of Warwick had been dispossessed, with power to alienate any part of them. The meaning of this act soon appeared, for the countess was forced to convey the whole of her possessions in perpetuity to the king, and received the grant of Marlow, and some other estates, for life, in return. On her death it reverted to the crown, and was leased to different persons; but in the reign of Philip and Mary it was granted to William, lord Paget, for £1252. From the Pagets it passed through several intermediate possessors to sir William Clayton, who purchased it in 1736, and in his family it still remains.

The Church is a large and ancient structure, consisting of a body and two aisles, with a transept dividing it from the chancel; from the tower rises a wooden spire, erected in the year 1627. The altar is of oak, handsomely carved. The Church contains many monuments, but none particularly worthy of notice.

Marlow consists of two principal streets, in the form of a T, and three smaller ones. The high street is spacious, on a gradual descent, and furnished with some good houses. In the High Street is situated the remains of the ancient chapel represented in the annexed Plate: the inscription over the arch is nearly obliterated.

The old bridge over the Thames appears to have been of very remote antiquity. Part of this bridge was destroyed by the army of major-general Brown, in 1642,

**CHURCH AND ANCIENT CHAPEL, GREAT MARLOW.**

and the parliament ordered a county rate to be levied for its reparation. In 1787 this structure becoming ruinous and unsafe, occasioned an application to be made to the county for rebuilding it ; but the magistrates not thinking the evidence of its being a county bridge conclusive, refused to accede to the request, on which the marquis of Buckingham proposed a subscription, and £1800 was raised in the year 1798, when the present bridge was erected.





Engraved at the Drawing Room, from a sketch by G. Sampson

Thorne Church, Doncaster.

**ST. MARY'S CHURCH, SHERBORNE,  
DORSETSHIRE.**

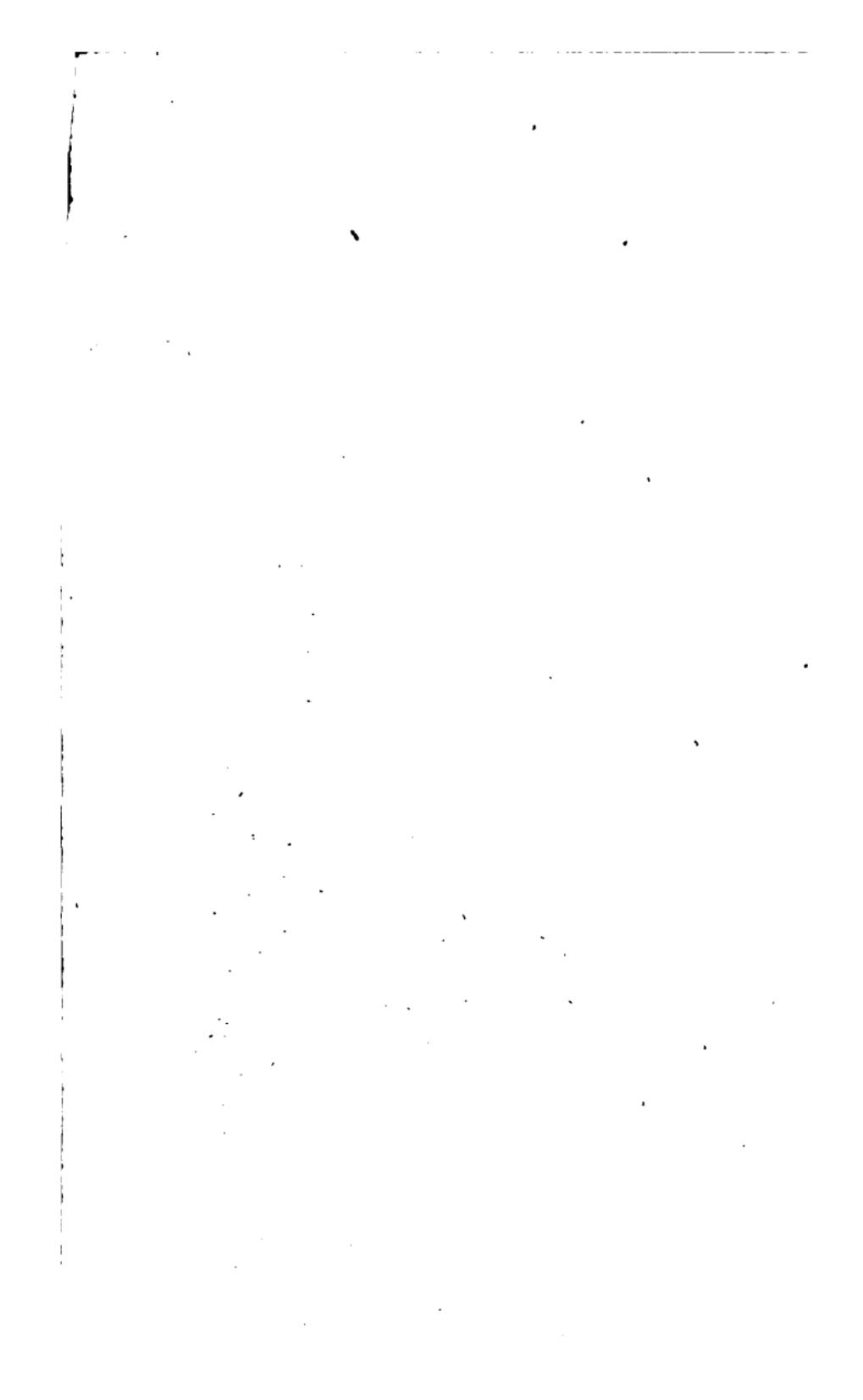
THIS magnificent pile of building contains specimens of different styles of architecture: in the porch and transept of the south side, and at the lower part of the west end and north side are some semicircular arches with mouldings, characteristic of the Norman era; but the upper part of the nave and tower, with the east end, the aisles, and some chapels, display the style of architecture which prevailed in the reign of Henry VI. when the greater part of the Church was rebuilt, after a fire occasioned through a dispute between the monks and townsmen, and which originated in the trifling circumstance of removing the font. Leland says, the latter were so irritated, that a priest of Alhallows shot a shaft with fire into the top of the Church that divided the east part, which was used by the monks, from that frequented by the town. This partition happening at the time to be thatched, the roof was soon in a blaze, and nearly the whole Church was consumed. The interior is light, lofty, and spacious, having the roof supported by numerous groins springing from the side aisles; at the intersection of the tracery work are a number of shields bearing different arms, with roses, portcullisses, and other cut devices.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, SHERBORNE.

Many chapels of ease belong to this Church, which having been both cathedral and conventual, was made parochial on the dissolution, when it was purchased by the inhabitants and the vicar for 100 marks. In the original Church Ethelbald, king of the West Saxons, and Ethelbert his brother, grandsons to Egbert, were buried.

On the north side of the Church were the cloisters and domestic buildings belonging to the abbey; some small portions of the former remain, together with the refectory, which extended the whole length of the west end of the cloister, and is nearly entire, but divided into three stories, which are all occupied by machinery for a silk manufactory.

Adjoining the east end of the church is the free school, founded by Edward VI. This school has been governed by excellent preceptors, and has produced several eminent characters. Over the door is the following inscription:—"EDWARDI imperio patet hic schola publica SEXTI Grammaticæ cupidis nobile REGIS opus."





Printed by H. & C. King, 1860, from a Sketch by F. H. L. Nicholls.

Winchester Cathedral, Hants.

## WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL,

### HAMPSHIRE.

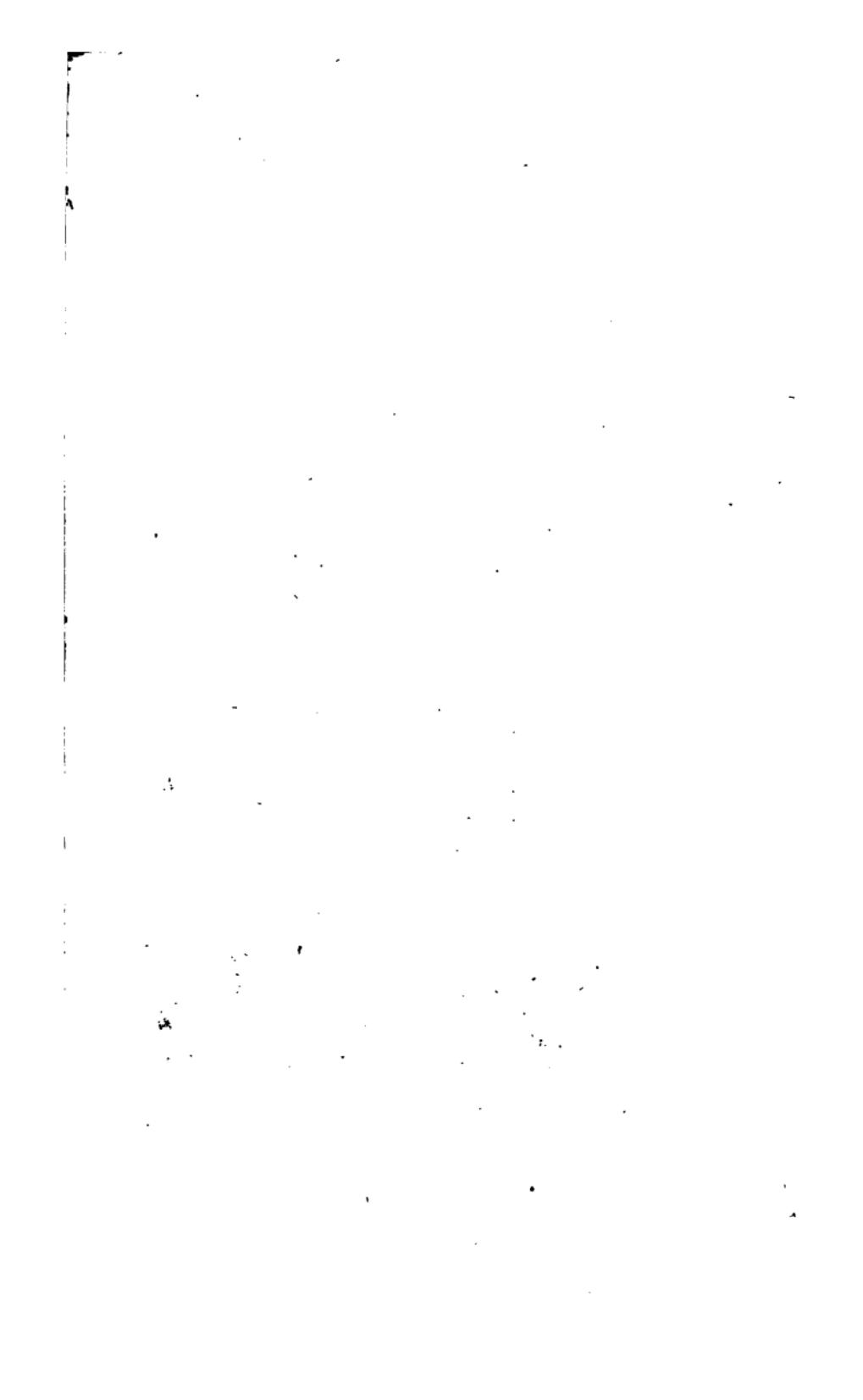
THE Cathedral of Winchester is generally esteemed one of the most interesting buildings in England, whether considered with respect to the antiquity of its foundation, the importance of the transactions that have taken place there, or the characters of the personages with whose mortal remains it is hallowed. It is also curious as an instructive example of architecture, whether of Saxon, Norman, or English style.

The structure erected by the Saxon kings Kinegils and Kenewalch is entirely destroyed, but of that built by Ethelwold the crypt beneath the high altar is yet remaining. The walls, the pillars, and the groining of this crypt are still in nearly their original state, and are, as Mr. Milner observes, "executed in a fine and bold, though simple and unadorned manner, that gives no contemptible idea of Saxon art. The Saxon church built by Kenewalch," continues the same gentleman, "did not extend so far towards the west, probably by 150 feet, as Walkelin afterwards built it. In consequence of this scale of the ancient church, its high altar, tower, transept, and the habitations of the monks, were considerably more to the east than they were afterwards

#### WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL.

placed. Walkelin began his work by taking down all that part of the church that was to the west of the aforesaid tower, in the place of which he built up from the foundations the present large and massive tower, which hence bore his name ; the lofty spacious north and south transepts, and the body of the church of the same height with them, and reaching to the full extent of the present fabric. He also built new cloisters, and all the other offices requisite for a cathedral monastery, in the situation which they ever afterwards held, on the south-west side of the church." Walkelin's buildings were completed in the year 1093, in the course of which all the offices that were left standing of the ancient monastery, and whatever else remained of the old church, except the high altar and the eastern aisles, were taken down, and in the next year the old high altar appears to have been removed, as the relics of St. Swithin, and other saints were then found under it. Abundant specimens of the work of Walkelin yet remain. "The most conspicuous of these," observes Mr. Milner, "is the square massive tower, 140 feet high and fifty feet broad, which is seen at the present day in as perfect and firm a state, to all appearance, as when it was built 700 years ago, and which was celebrated, in ancient times, for being the firmest in all England."

Numerous remains of antiquity in Winchester Cathedral will be given in our future numbers, and the present descriptive matter continued.





Engraved & Published by George Engleheart from a Drawing by J. Frost.

Trowbridge. Wiltshire

## TROWBRIDGE,

### WILTSHIRE.

TROWBRIDGE is a market town, and is worthy of the notice of the antiquary principally on account of its church, which is esteemed peculiarly elegant and light; it consists of a nave, chancel, and side aisles, and appears to have been erected about the latter end of the reign of Henry VI. or the early part of Edward IV. The western entrance is surmounted by a very elevated

Trowbridge is distant from London 101 miles, ten from Devizes, and twenty-four from Marlborough. The market is held on a Saturday, and is generally well supplied, and well attended. The principal manufactures carried on here are for broad cloths and kerseymeres, and as these manufactures are on the increase, Trowbridge appears to improve in opulence and respectability.

The river Were flows through a portion of the town, and gives beauty to the surrounding country; there is a handsome stone bridge over the river, near the extremity of the town.

The castle at Trowbridge was formerly a fortress of

TROWBRIDGE.

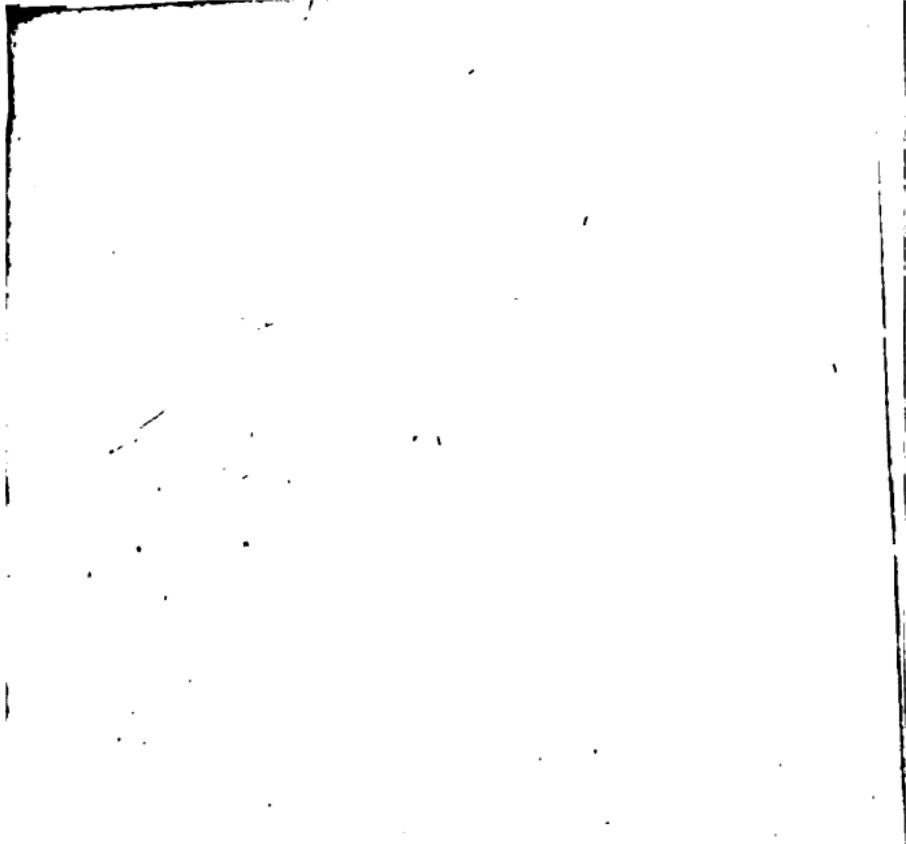
great strength, though now destroyed: its walls were extremely thick, and it possessed seven towers. Scarcely any notice of it occurs in history; and its decay has been so rapid, and so nearly complete, that but few traces of it are left except its site.

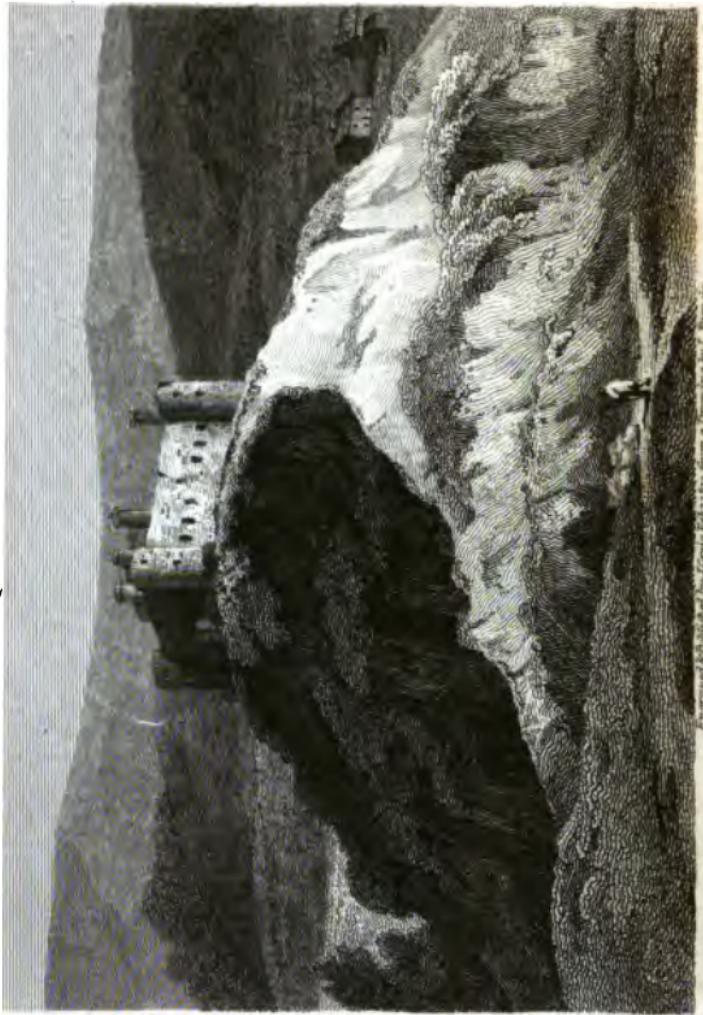




Engraving from the book "The History of the Chinese Empire by P. Morgan" -

Printed under the direction of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Great Britain.





Harlech Castle  
*From the Sea*

## HARLECH CASTLE,

*MERIONETHSHIRE.*

HARLECH is in the parish of Llanfair, and is built upon a cliff which overhangs the marsh on the sea coast, near Cardigan bay. The Castle, which is tolerably entire, is a square building, each side measuring about seventy yards, and has at each corner a round tower, to which once were annexed round turrets: the Castle was defended on the east side by a deep foss. According to ancient historians, a castle was built here by Maelgwn Gwynedd, prince of North Wales, about the year 590; and Edward I. founded the present fortress upon the ruins of the old castle: it was completed in 1283. In 1404 this Castle, along with that of Aberystwith, in Cardiganshire, was seized by the ambitious Owen Glendwr, during his rebellion against Henry IV. They were both retaken about four years afterwards, by an army which the king dispatched into Wales; and his queen, the celebrated Margaret of Anjou, after his defeat at Northampton in 1460, fled from Coventry, and found here a safe asylum, and a long stand was made in this fortress against Edward IV. by a friend of the house of Lancaster, named Dafydd ap Ifan ap Einion; it was however at last surrendered to the forces under the command of William

#### HARLECH - CASTLE.

**Herbert, earl of Pembroke.** In the civil wars of Charles I. Harlech Castle was the last in North Wales which held out for the king.

From the Castle, if the atmosphere happens to be clear, may be seen the peaked summit of Snowdon, elevated much above the other mountains, the promontory of Llyn, Crickheath castle, and the entire bay of Cardigan.

Near this place is a very curious and ancient monument, called Ceton Arthur, consisting of a large flat stone lying horizontally, supported by three others. The supporters are about twenty inches square; two of them are eight feet in height, and the incumbent stone, inclining to an oval, is eleven feet in length.

About 1692 an ancient golden torque was dug up in a garden near the Castle, which is described as a wreathed bar, or four rods twisted together, and about four feet long; flexible, but bent in the shape of a hat-band, with hooks at each end, neither sharp nor twisted, but plain, and cut even, of a circular form, about an inch in circumference, and in weight eight ounces. This valuable relic of former ages is in the possession of sir Roger Mostyn, bart. Several Roman coins have also been found in or near the town.

Not far from the Castle is an old roofless building, once the town hall, in which it is said that the members for Merionethshire continue to be elected.

In the winter of 1694 this neighbourhood was much

#### HARLECH CASTLE.

alarmed by a kind of fiery exhalation, or mephitic vapour, which arose from a sandy marshy tract of land, called *Morfa Bychan* (the little marsh), across the channel, and injured the country much by poisoning the grass in such a manner as to kill the cattle, and firing hay and corn-ricks for near a mile from the coast. It is represented to have had the appearance of a weak blue flame, and by any great noise, such as the firing of guns or the sounding of horns, was easily extinguished. All the damage was done invariably in the night: in the course of the winter sixteen hayricks and two barns, one filled with corn and the other with hay, were burnt by it. It was observed at different times during eight months. The occasion of this singular phenomenon has not been accurately ascertained.

One mile from Harlech is a circle of stones thirty yards in diameter, probably one of those Druidical circles in which was held the Gorseddan, or Bardic meeting. Not far from hence is Cwm Bychan, a grassy dell, about a mile and a half in length, surrounded by black and dreary scenery. On descending into the hollow an ancient mansion presents itself, and ascending on the other side a deep mountain hollow occurs, called *Blych Tyddiad*. Passing upon this rocky cleft, beyond the higher mountains, on a sudden, a fine prospect of all the country eastward bursts upon the view, bounded by Cadir Idris, and other stupendous mountains.

The town of Harlech, or as it is written in some an-

#### **HARLECH CASTLE.**

cient documents, Harddlech, signifying a bold rock, is a very inconsiderable place, containing but few inhabitants, although it was once the principal town of this district. It was originally called Twr Bronwen, and afterwards Caer Colwyn, from Colwyn ap Tagno, who resided here in 877.





Engraved and Published by Philip Parkes from a Drawing by J. Chapman.

Walsingham Priory, Norfolk

## WALSINGHAM PRIORY,

*NORFOLK.*

OLD WALSINGHAM was formerly a place of great celebrity, which was owing to the widow lady of Ricoldic Faverches founding, about the year 1061, a small chapel in honour of the Virgin Mary, similar to the Sancta Casa at Nazareth. Sir Geffrey de Faverches, her son, confirmed her endowments, made an additional foundation of a priory for Augustine canons, and erected a conventional church. The numerous gifts and grants to this famous religious house, form one of those extensive mazes of ecclesiastical record through which the antiquary is at times constrained to wade. At the dissolution, the annual revenues of the monastery were valued, according to Speed, at £446 : 14 : 4.

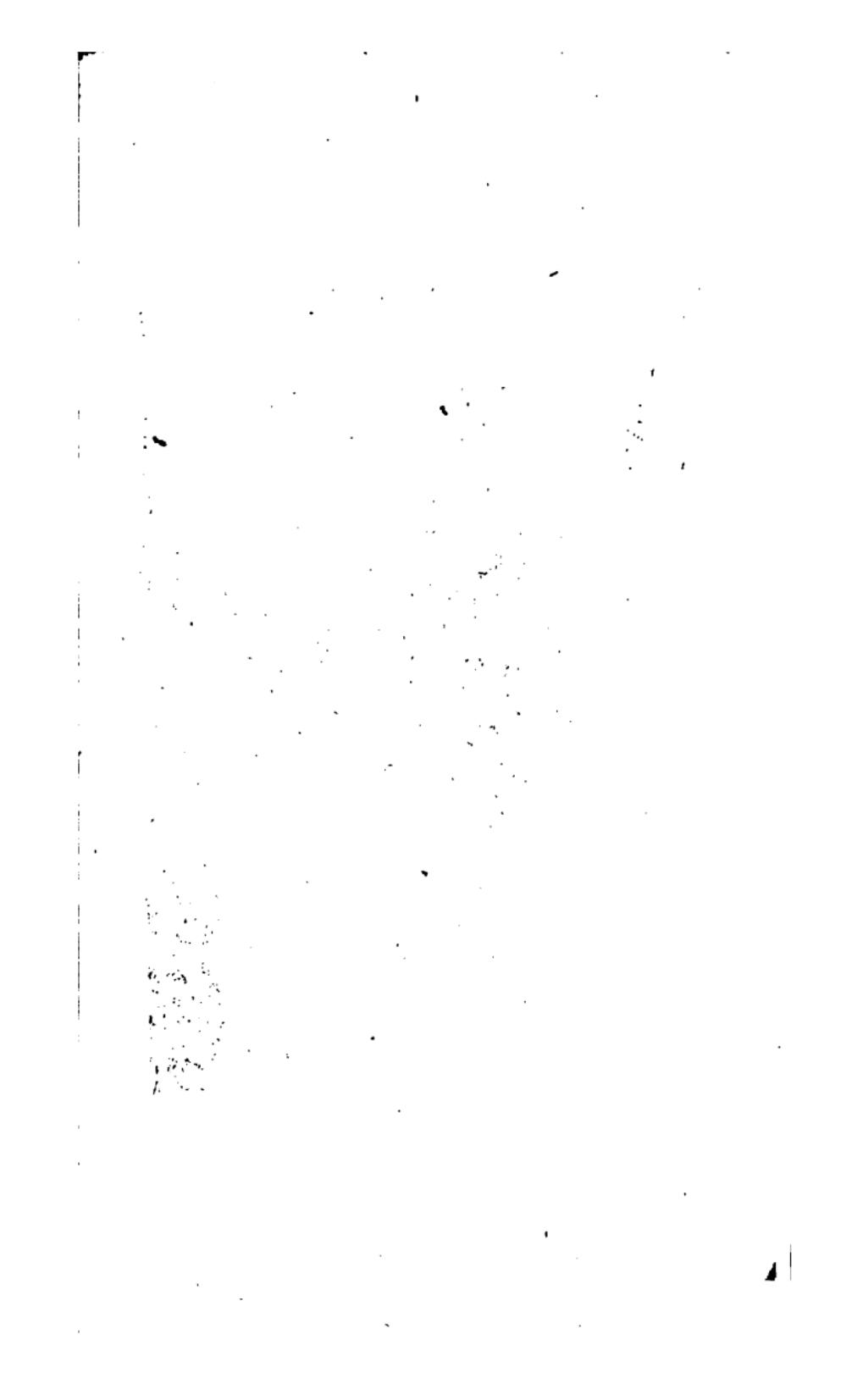
The fame of the image of the lady of Walsingham was very great. This vestige of Romish superstition was perhaps more frequented than the shrine of Thomas-a-Becket, at Canterbury.

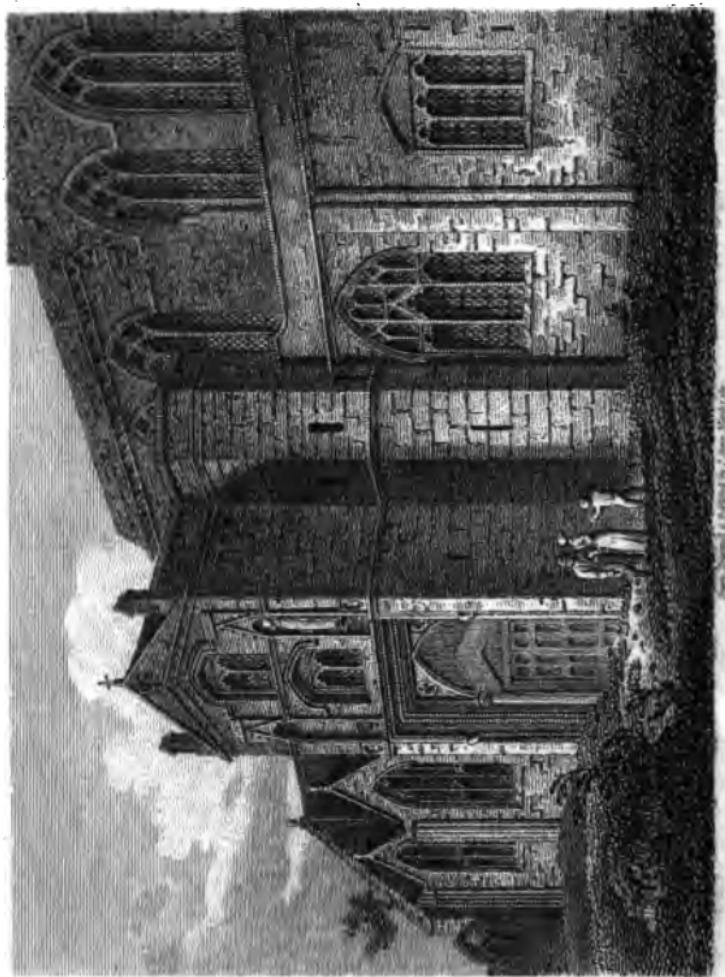
The present remains of the Priory consist of a portal, or west entrance gateway; a richly-ornamented lofty arch, sixty feet high, which formed part of the east end of the church, supposed to have been erected in the time of Henry VII. ; the refectory, seventy-eight feet long and

#### WALSINGHAM PRIORY.

twenty-seven feet wide ; a Saxon arch, which has a zig-zag moulding, and formed part of the original chapel ; a portion of the cloisters ; a stone bath, and two uncovered wells, called the *Wishing Wells*.

The principal part of these venerable ruins are included in the pleasure gardens of Henry Lee Warner, esq. who possesses a large commodious house, which occupies the site of the Priory. Among the recent embellishments in the grounds, are a bridge across the rivulet in the front of the house, and the widening of the stream, so as to give it the appearance of a lake ; contiguous to the water, and intermixed in a fine grove of trees, are the various fragments of the ruins already mentioned.

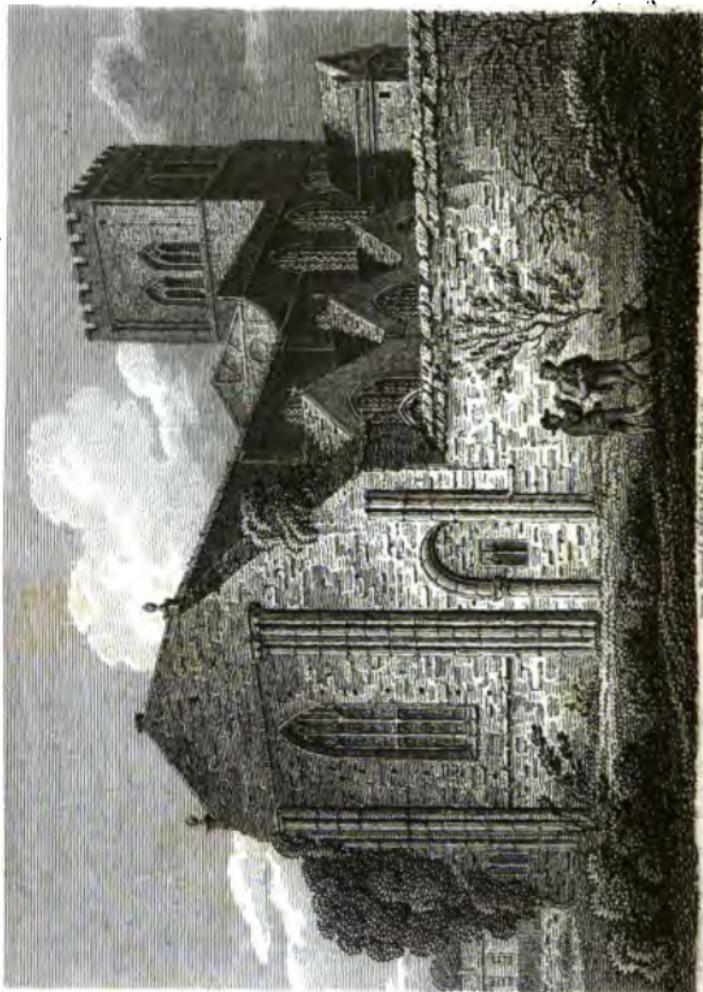




A North View of the Trinity Church, Manchac



*East view of the abbey church. Shows tower.*



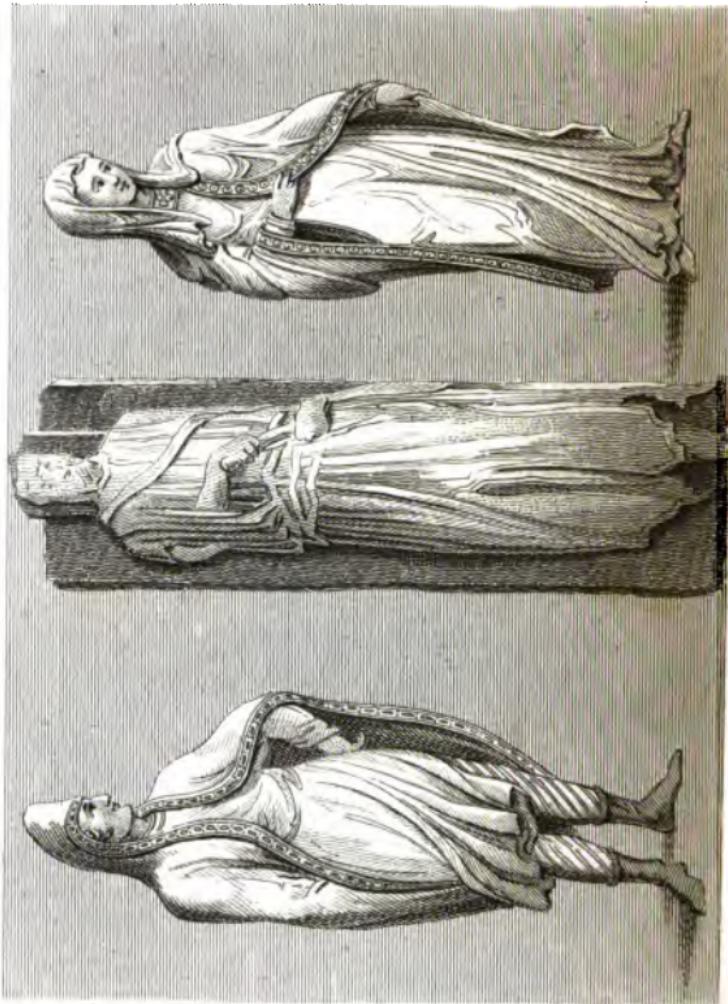


A Faint View of the Village Church, Hungerford.





Monument of Roger de Montgomery, Earl of Shrewsbury, & Dyer of the Nobility in his time.



## **ABBEY CHURCH OF ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL,**

**SHREWSBURY.**

THE Abbey of St. Peter and St. Paul was situated on the eastern banks of the Severn, having the small rivulet of Meole gliding beneath its walls. It is said that a church stood upon this spot in the Saxon times, to which was united a religious house, inhabited by a community of monks and nuns, under the government of an abbes ; this custom was generally prevalent in the most ancient Saxon monasteries, many examples of the kind being upon record : Ethelreda, St. Milburga, and others, governed their own foundations ; and in the year 694, abbesses were so much esteemed for their prudence and sanctity, that they were summoned to the council of Beaconsfield, where the names of several (but not one abbot) are subscribed to the constitutions there made. If, however, the foundation of this religious house was thus early, it must be acknowledged that it could hardly escape the ravages committed in the ninth century by the Danes, who subverted the monasteries, and slaughtered their defenceless inhabitants. After the settlement of the kingdom under Edgar, many of the abbey churches were taken possession of by secular priests, who not confining themselves to rigid monastic discipline, performed

#### **ABBEY CHURCH OF ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL.**

the sacred duties, and contributed to the happiness of ~~secular~~ life by marrying and maintaining an intercourse with the world. These secular monks began to lose ground about the year 946, through the exertions of Dunstan, abbot of Glastonbury, who introduced the rules of St. Benedict with so much success, that at the time of the Norman conquest almost all the richest abbeys in the kingdom were in the possession of the religious of that order.

William of Normandy, having subjected the kingdom, granted Shrewsbury, and nearly the whole county besides, to his kinsman, Roger de Montgomery, whom he created earl of Shrewsbury. He was no sooner settled in his possessions, than he began to refound the monasteries, and, accordingly, in the year 1083, began the magnificent Abbey at Shrewsbury, which he dedicated to the apostles St. Peter and St. Paul: it was most liberally endowed by the founder, and through his extensive interest, large additions were made to its revenues. The first abbot was named Fulcheridus, who, with three other Benedictines, were invited from Normandy, this order, as before observed, being now in great repute.

The Abbey Church was not completed during the life of earl Roger; he was succeeded in the earldom by his second son, who soon after came in great state to the Abbey, attended by his barons, and formally addressing the abbot Fulcheridus, he exempted the Abbey from all taxes, added to the endowments of his father, and, among

ABBEY CHURCH OF ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL.

other gifts, bestowed upon the monks a tithe of all the venison of his forests in Shropshire, that of Wenlock only excepted. In the course of a few years this house possessed such ample revenues that it ranked among the richest abbeys in the kingdom, and the abbot, as a spiritual baron, was entitled to a seat in parliament. The monks of this house appear to have had numerous disputes with the burgesses of Salop relative to their respective rights; though this was no uncommon thing with other religious houses: concession and forbearance being no part of the monkish character, whatever by their precepts they might endeavour to impose upon the laity. In the reign of Henry III. a litigation concerning the right of the burgesses to erect mills, was decided in a court of law in favour of the monks; and shortly afterward another cause between the same parties was argued before the king in person at Shrewsbury, assisted by the lord chancellor, treasurer, keeper of the privy seal, the justices of both benches, with the chancellor and barons of the exchequer, when the citizens again lost their cause. From the foundation to the suppression of this Abbey there was a succession of twenty-eight abbots, the third of which number was Luke de Wenlock, who incurred the resentment of Edward I. through his apparent opposition to the king's favourite object, the subjugation of Wales: on this occasion his barony was seized, and he was compelled to resign. The succeeding superior obtained the restoration of the barony by a fine of fifty marks.

#### **ABBEY CHURCH OF ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL.**

A relation of the manner of passing a single day within this Abbey, will give a general idea of monastic life. The monks rose at half past one in the morning, and at two were collected in the choir to perform their nocturnal vigils, which generally occupied them about two hours. After this, they retired for the space of one hour to repose ; at five, commenced the service called prime, which being concluded, the whole fraternity went in procession to the chapter-house, where a lecture was delivered on some religious subject, and such admonitions and corrections as the prior or abbot might think necessary were not withheld. Thence they proceeded again to the church to assist at the early mass, which being ended, an hour and a half was allowed for exercise or study. At eight they again met in the choir to perform other services, which held them till near ten, at which time they proceeded to the refectory to dine. The monks waited on each other, and no conversation was allowed but on days of festival : dinner being ended, they returned to the church to chaunt their common thanksgiving. There was now an hour and a half for relaxation, after which they were engaged in various services till nearly the hour of supper, which was five, their laborious devotions were then resumed till eight, when they retired to rest.

The last abbot but one was Richard Marshall, who not being sufficiently pliant for the purposes of Henry VIII. after all the honours that he had enjoyed, was thrown

#### ABBEY CHURCH OF ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL.

upon the world with the miserable pittance of 10s. *per annum*. He was succeeded, through the interest of the vicar-general Cromwell, by Thomas Butler, who surrendered the Abbey and all its possessions to the king's commissioners : upon this occasion they repaired to the monastery, and summoned the members to the chapter-house, laying before them an instrument ready prepared, signifying that the lord abbot and his monks, moved by the grace of Almighty God, and of their own will and free consent, without compulsion or restraint, did, out of pure conscience, resign for ever to the king's use their whole property and possessions : this they were compelled to sign. Upon the conclusion of this farce the conventional seal was broken, and the Abbey declared to be dissolved.

The principal inhabitants, unwilling to have this magnificent house reduced to ruin, petitioned the king that it might be spared, to receive his majesty, or any of the nobility, who might resort to the town ; this request was refused, and the purchaser was permitted immediately to commence his destructive operations.

The remains of this ancient Abbey are now inconsiderable ; and, excepting the church, the most striking feature is the embattled wall which surrounded the precinct ; this, on the northern and eastern sides, is nearly entire. Near the west end of the church is the shell of a building, supposed to have been the infirmary of the invalid monks ; it is about 120 feet in length, and consists

#### ABBEY CHURCH OF ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL.

of two oblong buildings ; one part has been converted into a dwelling-house, the other is used as a barn.

The Church was originally in the form of a cross, having two lofty towers, one at the west end, the other in the centre ; the western tower, the north porch, and the nave are still standing. The tower is a well-proportioned structure ; its western side contains a noble window, which takes up the entire breadth, and nearly the whole height of the Church : under it is a door, which was the great west entrance ; it has a round-headed arch of Norman construction, into which has been inserted a pointed arch at some subsequent period. The north porch is almost entire. The door is a lofty pointed arch, encompassed by a suit of square mouldings : on the spandrills are quatrefoils with shields ; above the door are two stories, in each is a window, with an obtuse pointed arch, and extending in length from one story to the other on either side is a canopied niche ; in one of them is a hooded figure, like a nun ; the other probably contained a statue, but the pedestal only remains.

On the south side of the chancel is an old figure that was discovered among the ruins, either of the choir or the Virgin Mary's chapel, by the heralds, at their visitation of this place in 1683. They caused it to be placed in its present situation, with an inscription as follows :

" The figure underneath, at first placed within the monastery of St. Peter and St. Paul, and afterwards

#### ABBEY CHURCH OF ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL.

found in the ruins, was removed hither by the direction of his majesty's heralds at arms, in their visitation 1633, to remain, as it was originally intended, in perpetual memory of Roger de Montgomery, earl of Shrewsbury, who was kinsman to the conqueror, and one of his chief commanders in the victorious battle of Hastings. He erected many useful buildings here, both public and private; not only fortified this town with walls, and built the castle upon the isthmus, but also the castles of Ludlow and Bridgenorth, with the monastery of Wenlock. He founded and endowed in an ample manner this large Benedictine Abbey, and when he was advanced in years, by the consent of his countess Adelaisa, he entered into holy orders, and was shorn a monk of this his own foundation, where he lies interred. He died the 27th of July, 1094."

Shrewsbury was a considerable town at the time of the conquest, as appears by its rate in Doomsday Book. In the reign of Richard II. a parliament was held here; and in the following reign it was the scene of an obstinate battle between king Henry IV. and Henry Percy, surnamed Hotspur, the earls of Douglas and Shrewsbury.

It seemed the intention of the malcontents to depose the king; they published a manifesto filled with complaints, to which the monarch condescended to reply, but without effect. The rebels were encamped at Shrewsbury, where the king, upon arriving with his troops, again offered an accommodation, and the earl of Worcester was

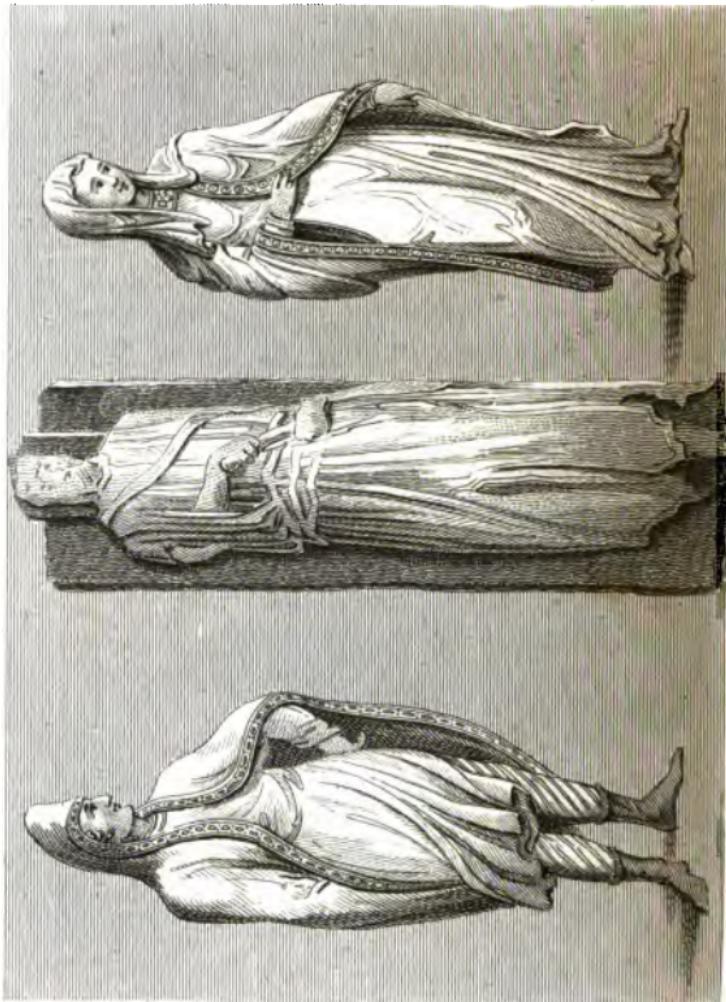
#### ABBEY CHURCH OF ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL.

deputed to treat with him ; but the negotiation coming to nothing, the fight commenced. The king appeared at first likely to be defeated ; his horse was killed under him, and his son, the prince of Wales, was wounded in the face; but he managed so well his body of reserve, that by their help he regained the ground he had lost, and the aspect of the day was entirely changed ; the last charge of the royal troops was so briskly pushed, that the malcontents were defeated ; young Percy was slain in the battle, and buried by the king's leave : but afterwards altering his mind, he ordered him to be taken up, and his body to be cut in quarters, and fixed on poles in the high way. The earl of Worcester being taken prisoner was beheaded in the town.

In the year 1551 the sweating sickness, so fatal to the English both at home and abroad, first discovered itself at Shrewsbury, on the 15th of April. It spread all over England in about the space of six months, and affected the English only : it chiefly seized men of a middle age ; few women, children, or old men suffering from it—its crisis was completed in about twenty-four hours, and those who slept during the affection seldom waked again.



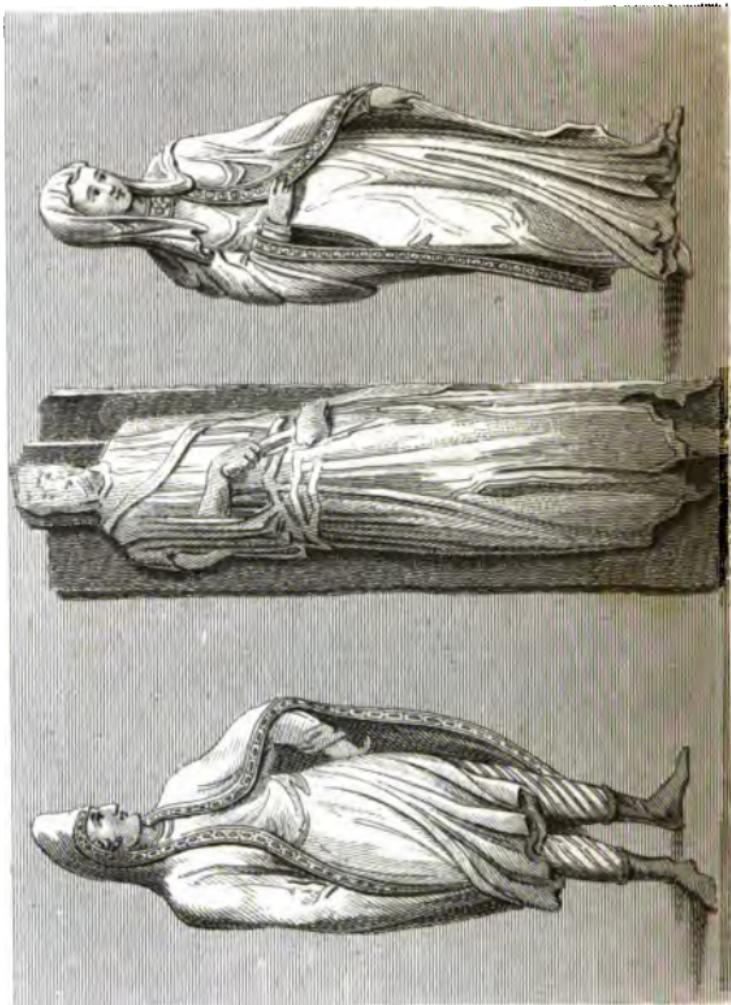
C. Monument of Roger de Montgomery, Earl of Shrewsbury, & Dux of the Normandy in his time.



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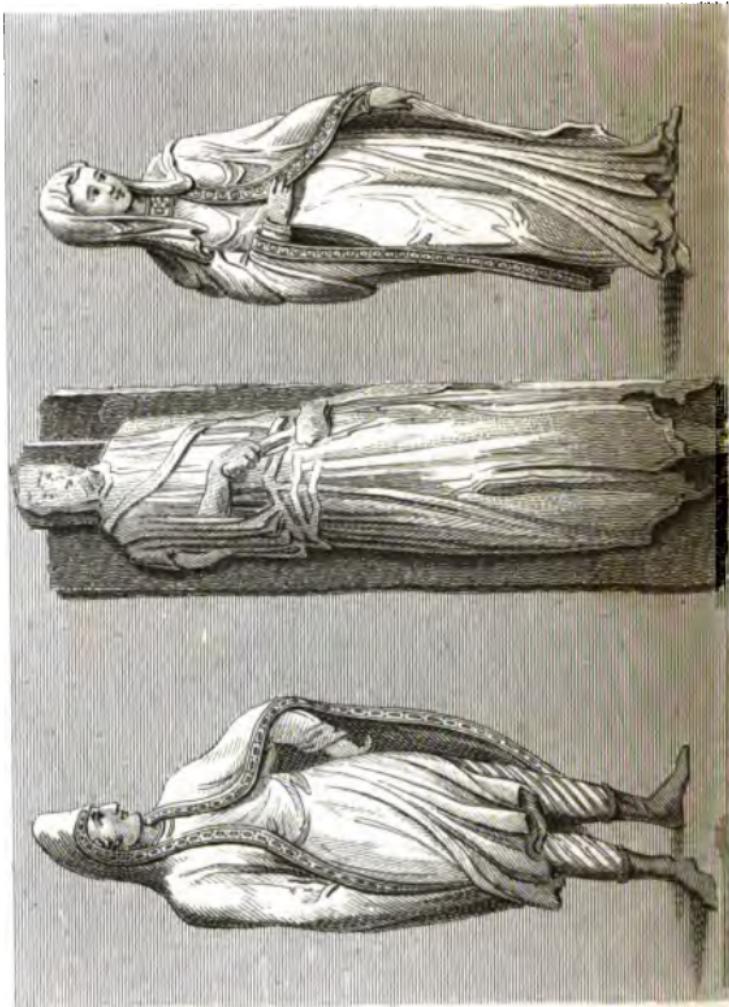
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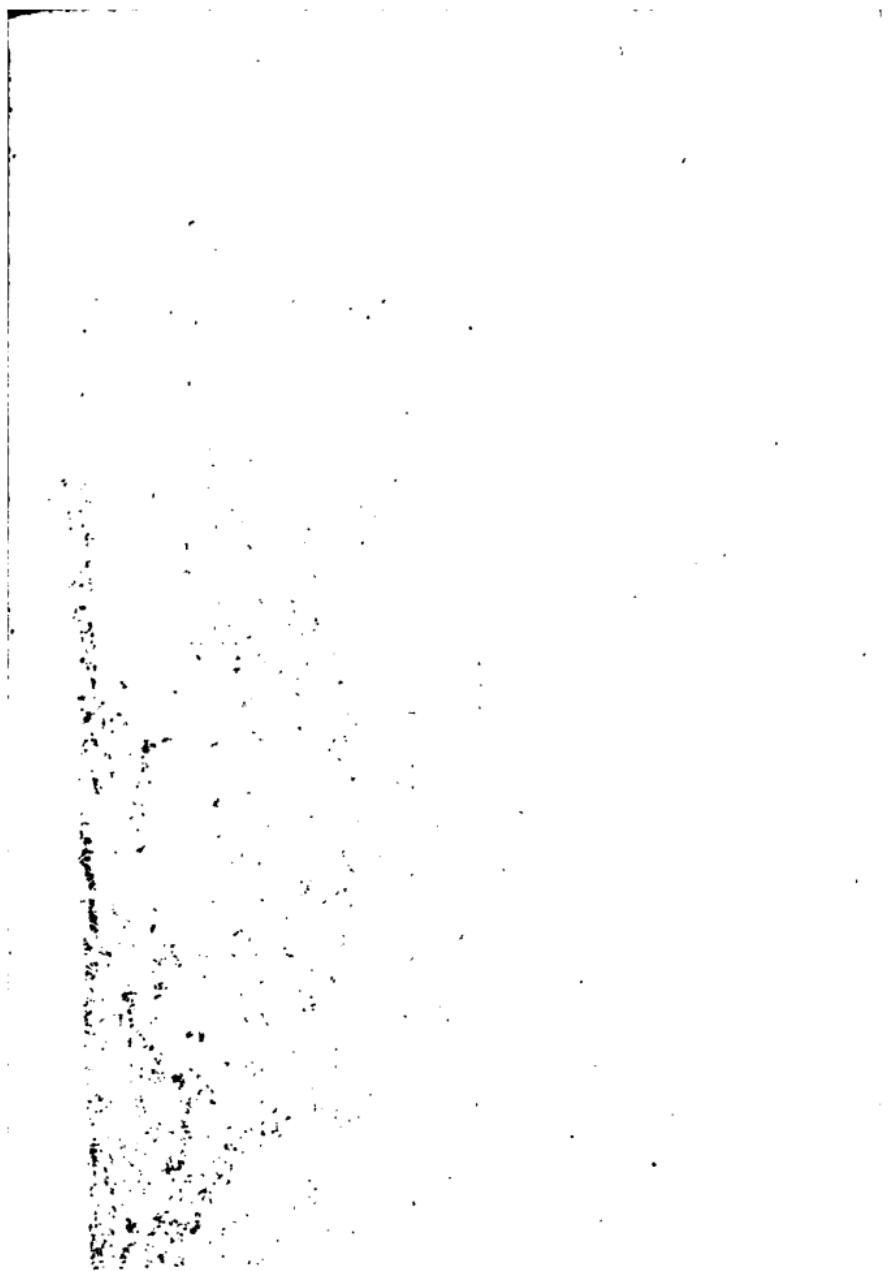
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### ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH.

most beautiful steeples in Europe ; it consists of a tower, enriched with figures in canopied niches, surmounted by an octagon, which lengthens into an elegant spire ; every part is so finely proportioned, that sir Christopher Wren pronounced it to be a master-piece of architecture. The Church within is light and lofty, consisting of a body and two aisles, divided by four rows of high pillars and arches ; the height of the steeple and the length of the whole building are the same, viz. 303 feet ; the width of the Church is 104 feet. This remarkable steeple was began in the reign of Edward III. by two brothers, Adam and William Bota, at their own expense : it was more than twenty-two years in building, and cost upwards of £2000.





Engaged & Engraved by J. Murray from a Drawing by J. M. W. Turner, R.A.

Hydeford. Kent.

## **AYLESFORD,**

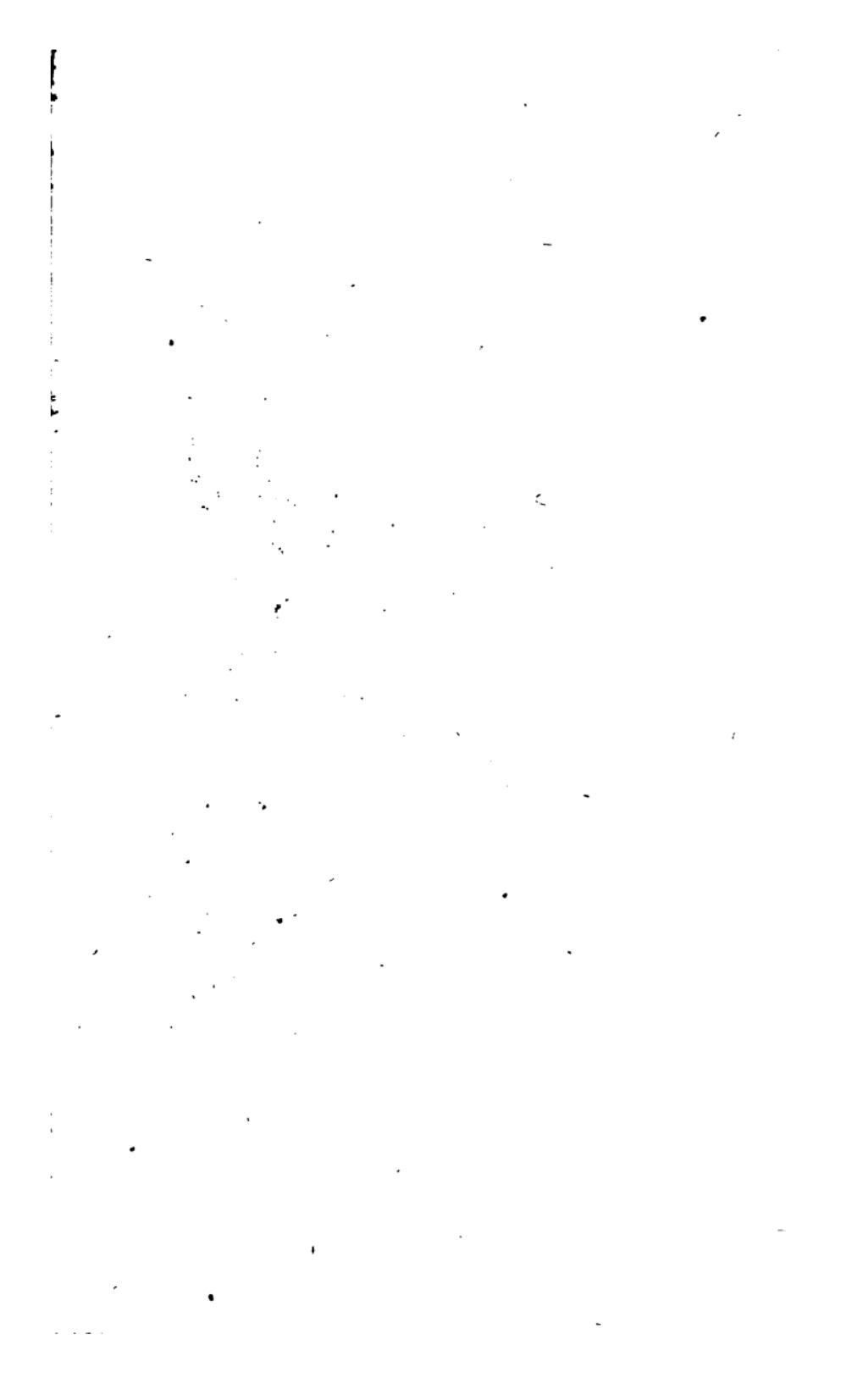
### **KENT.**

AYLESFORD is pleasantly situated, about thirty-two miles from London. The river Medway, which flows by it on the north-west side, becomes here a fine stream of fresh water ; and instead of the noisome smells arising from the salt marshes which prevail lower down, the river is encompassed with a range of fertile meadows, conducing to the health and profit of the inhabitants of Aylesford. At the back of the village the ground rises abruptly to a considerable height, so that the church, the vicarage, and other buildings, stand even higher than the tops of the houses that are below.

Aylesford is famous for a battle fought between the Britons and Saxons in the year 455, which was about five years after the first landing of the latter in Britain. Vortimer, the British king, first encountered the invaders on the banks of the river Darent, in this county : the Saxons appear to have been defeated, as they retreated to Aylesford, where passing the Medway, a sanguinary battle was fought, which ended in favour of the Britons ; in this action Horsa, brother to Hengist, the Saxon general, and Catigern, brother to king Vortimer, were killed fighting hand to hand. The former is supposed to have been

**AYLESFORD.**

buried a little more than three miles north of Aylesford, at a place now called Horsted; in the fields near which are many large stones dispersed over the land, some erect, others thrown down; these are supposed to have been the monuments of warriors killed in the conflict. Catigern is said to have been buried still nearer to the field of battle, on an eminence, about one mile north from the village, and a quarter of a mile westward of the high road from Rochester to Maidstone.





The Grange, near Highgate, N.Y.

## THE PRIORY, NEAR AYLESFORD,

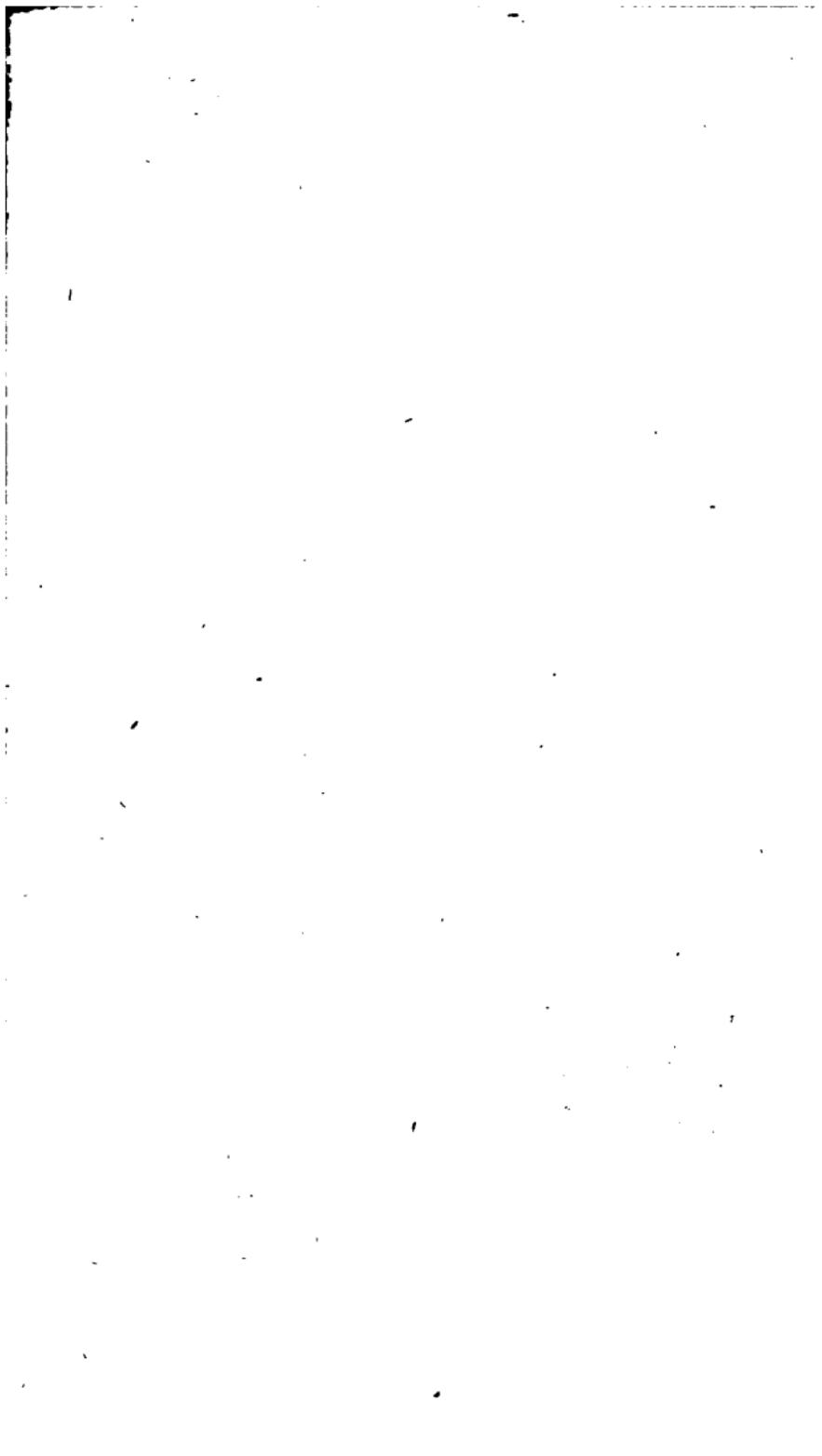
KENT.

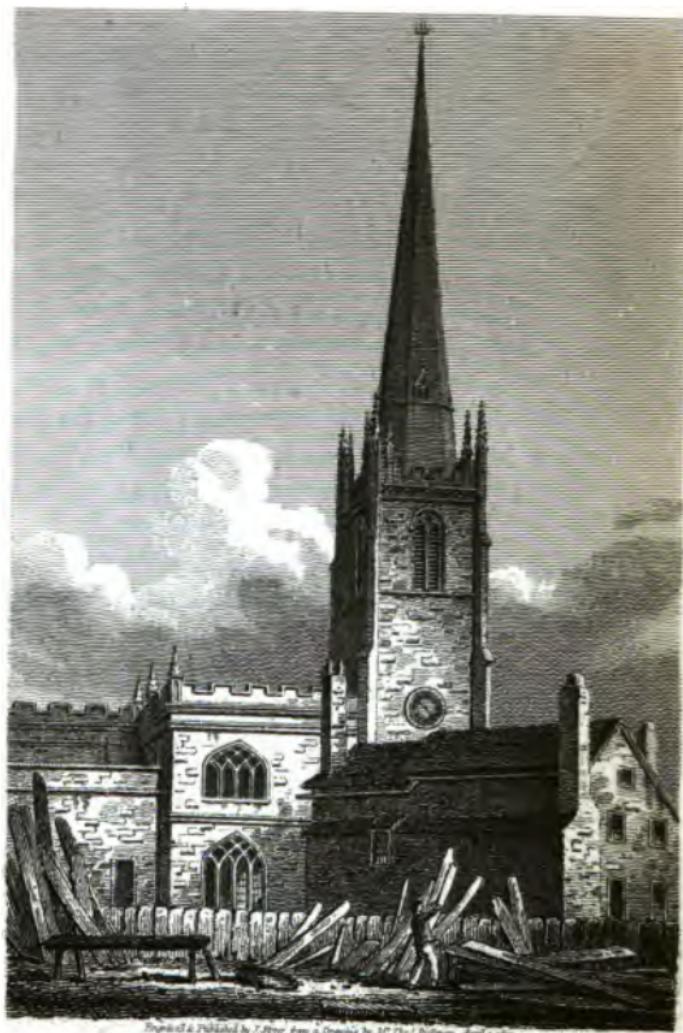
This Priory, now called the Friars, is situated close to the north-east bank of the river Medway ; it was founded by friars Carmelites, in the twenty-fifth year of Henry III. by Richard, lord Grey, of Codnor. This monastery was the first for friars of the Carmelite order that was established in England ; they soon increased, not only here, but in every part of Europe ; and in the year 1245 held their first European chapter at this Priory, near Aylesford. In the reign of king Edward II. Richard, lord Grey, great grandson to the founder, bestowed upon the prior three acres of land to enlarge the mansion ; and in the seventeenth of Richard II. the king granted to the monks a spring of water at a place called Haly Garden, in the adjoining parish of Burham, that they might make an aqueduct for the use of their house.

At the dissolution of this place, which occurred about the twenty-seventh of Henry VIII. its possessions were surrendered to the crown ; and, some years afterwards, Henry granted in exchange to sir Thomas Wyatt, among other premises, the site and house of the Priory of the White Friars, near Aylesford, and all buildings, gardens, and lands, within the site and precinct of it, and

#### THE PRIORY, NEAR AYLESFORD.

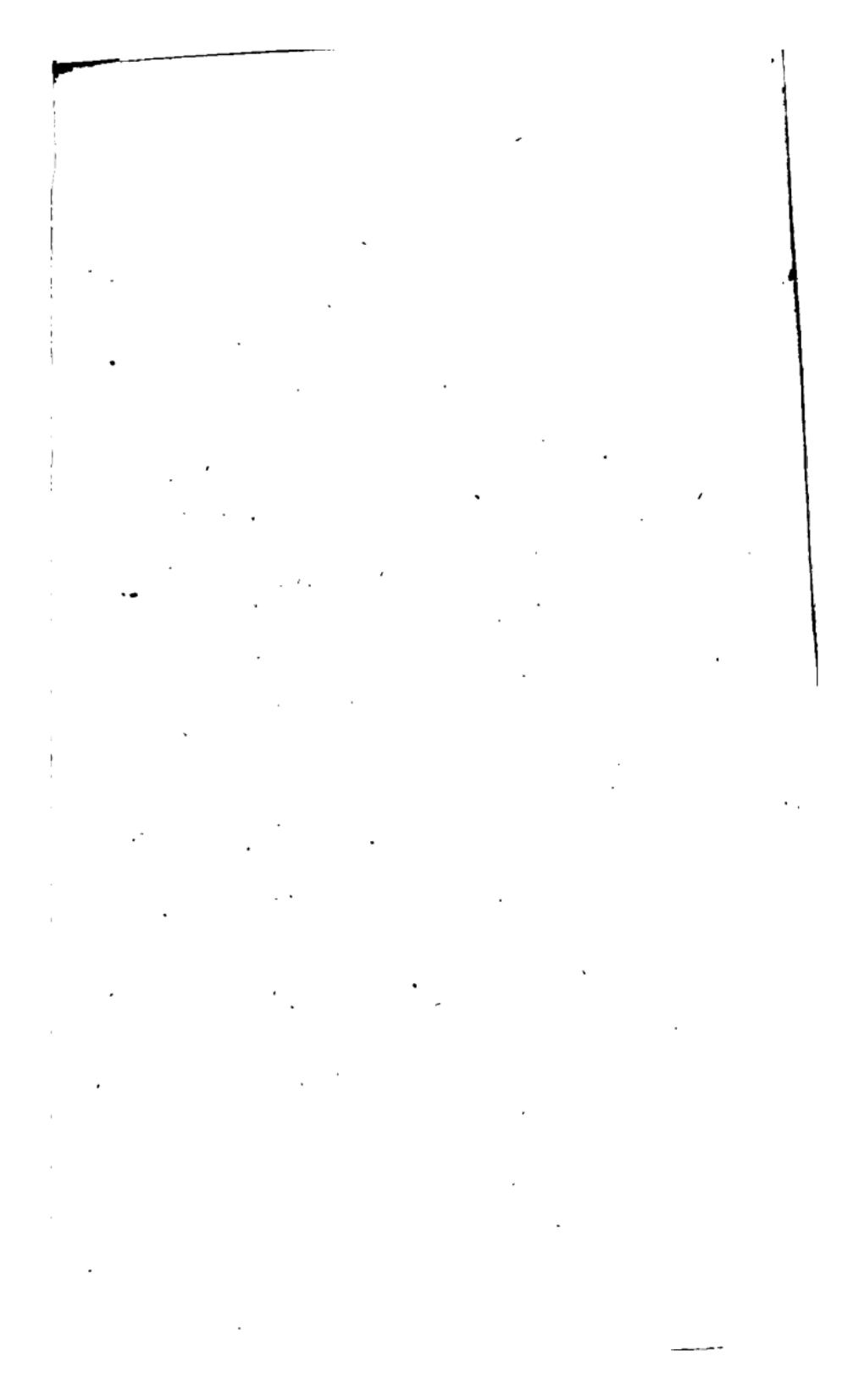
other lands in Aylesford belonging to it, to hold by knight's service, at the yearly rent of 10s. 3d. The son of sir Thomas above named, having raised a rebellion against queen Mary, was attainted, and his estates forfeited to the crown. Queen Elizabeth gave the Priory to John Sedley, esq. of Southfleet, who dying without issue, bequeathed it to his brother William, who was afterwards knighted and created a baronet by James I. Sir William Sedley conveyed this estate by sale, in the reign of Charles I. to sir Peter Ricaut. Sir Peter left ten sons, the youngest of whom, sir Paul Ricaut, was a great traveller, not only in Europe, but in Asia and Africa, and published the State of the Ottoman Empire, and other books. He was much employed in the reigns of Charles II. James II. and William III. The Priory, after passing through several hands, came into the possession of Henage Finch, who acquired great reputation in the time of queen Anne. In the reign of George I. he was created earl of Aylesford. The house, though much remain of its ancient parts, has been modernized, and is now the residence of the countess dowager of Aylesford.

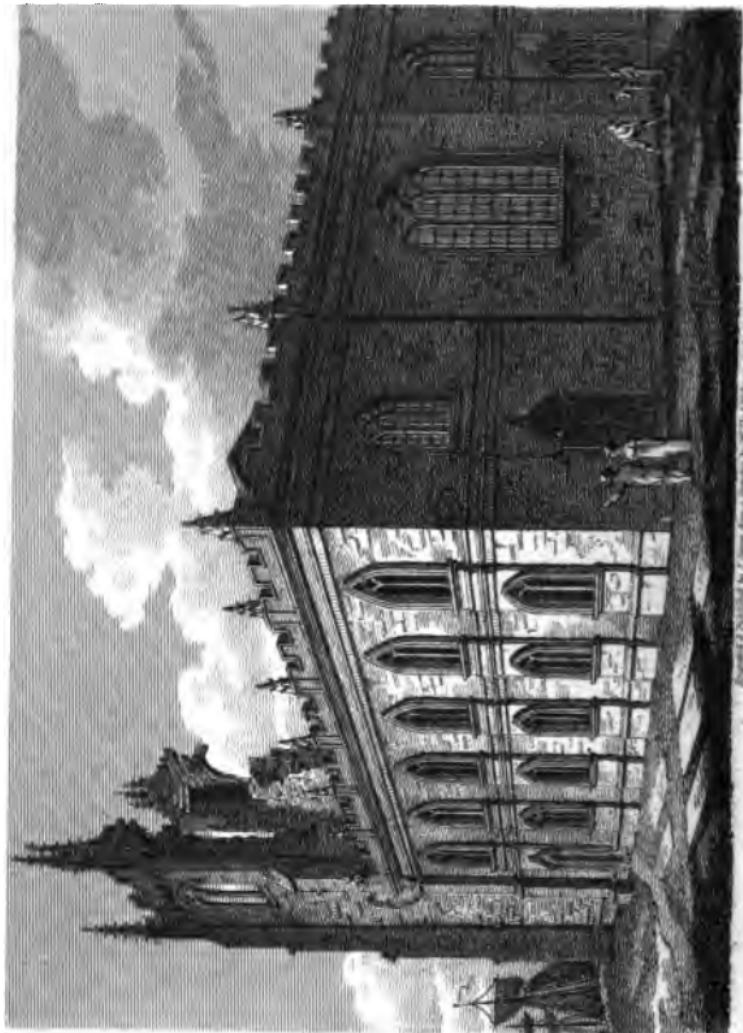




Engraved & Published by J. Beer, from a Drawing by M. Théodore Gudin, April 1, 1827.

*St. Nicholas Church, Liverpool.*





St. Nicholas' Church, Liverpool, after the fall of the Tide.

## THE CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS, *LIVERPOOL.*

THE Church of St. Nicholas, Liverpool, usually called the old church, stands near the shore of the river Mersey, at the north-west angle of the old part of the town. This was originally a chapel of ease to Walton, out of which parish, which was very extensive, that of Liverpool was taken in the year 1699, and this Church then became parochial. At what period a chapel was first built at this place is now, perhaps, impossible to decide; but as the situation is near three miles from the parish church of Walton, it was undoubtedly early; and the present edifice, or at least the tower of it, seems to have been erected about the time of Edward III.; but the various reparations of the Church have left none of its ancient character. Since the accident, which is hereafter described, the tower has been taken down, and amongst the rubbish placed under the additions of the year 1774, which, in digging a foundation for a new tower, was recently laid open, there are several fragments of the piers of the building and their capitals, just enough together with the appearance of the church in some old views, to justify a supposition that the body of the church was rebuilt in the latter part of the fif-

#### THE CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS.

teenth century. These fragments are now destroyed, so that every vestige of the original structure is done away.

We now come to notice more particularly the awful catastrophe above adverted to—the fall of the tower, and its fatal effects.

" On the 11th of February 1810, a few minutes before divine service usually begins, and just as the officiating clergyman was entering the Church, the key-stone of the tower gave way, and the north-east corner, comprising the north and east wall, with the whole of the spire, came down, and, with a tremendous crash, broke through the roof, along the centre aisle, till it reached near to the communion rails, and in its fall carrying with it the whole peal of six bells, the west gallery, the organ, and clergyman's reading-desk, totally demolishing them, and such seats as it came in contact with. Not more than from fifteen to twenty adult persons were in the Church at the time, and of these the greater part were unhurt ; but the children of the charity school, who are marched in procession somewhat earlier than the time of service, had partly entered ; the boys following last, all escaped ; but a number of the girls, who were either within the porch, or proceeding up the aisle, were overwhelmed in an instant beneath the pile of ruin—the crash of the steeple, and the piercing shrieks of terror which instantly issued from persons in the Church, and the spectators in the church-yard, immediately brought a large concourse of people

#### THE CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS.

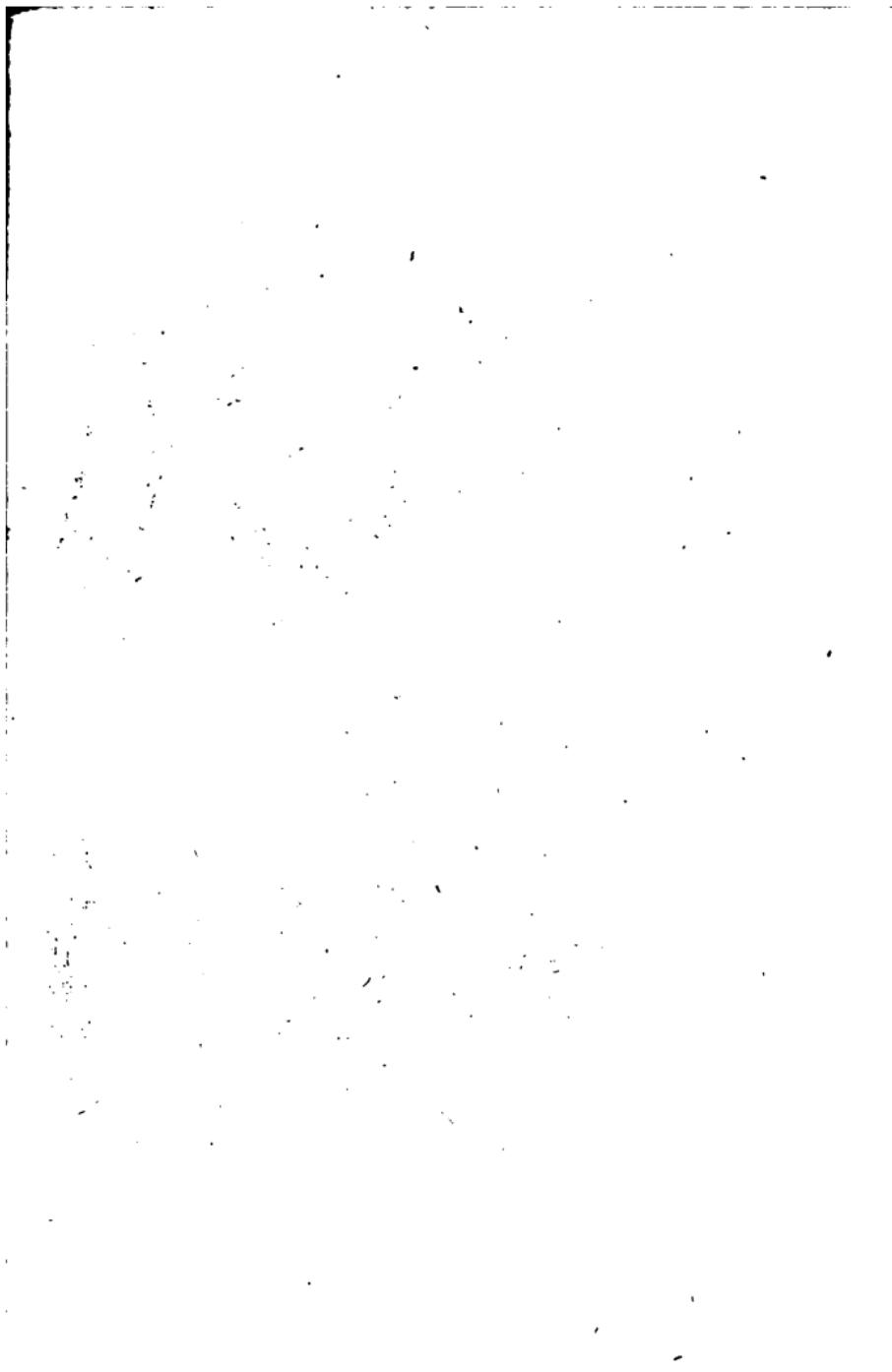
to the spot, who did not cease to make unabated efforts to rescue the unfortunate victims, till all the bodies were removed, notwithstanding the tottering appearance of the remaining part of the tower and roof of the Church, which momentarily menaced a second fall. Many instances of hair-breadth deliverance occurred; all the ringers escaped, excepting one, who was caught in the ruins, and yet was extricated alive. The alarm, it is said, first was given to the ringers by a stone falling upon the fifth bell, which prevented its swing; the man ran out, and immediately the bells, beams, &c. fell to the bottom of the tower; and their preservation would have been impossible, had not the belfry been on the ground floor. The rev. R. Roughedge, the rector, owes his safety to the circumstance of his entering the Church at an unaccustomed door: the rev. L. Pughe, the officiating minister, was prevented from going in by the children of the school, who were pressing forward. The teacher, who was killed, had just separated the children to afford him a passage, when a person exclaimed, For God's sake, come back; he stepped back, and beheld the spire sinking, and the whole fell in. We shall relate another instance, almost miraculous; a person named Martin was seated in his pew; the surrounding seats were dashed to pieces, and heaped with ruins; but he came out unhurt. Twenty-seven bodies have been taken from the ruins; and twenty-two were either killed, or shortly after expired—this number, if we consider the peril, may be

#### THE CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS.

called comparatively small ; but in the eye of humanity awfully great."

It is worthy of notice, that one of the ringers had laid down his watch on a tablet which projected round the interior of the tower, and a bell fell directly over it ; upon its removal some weeks afterwards the watch was found undamaged.

On the 25th September 1811, the first stone of the new tower (to be erected from the designs of Mr. Harrison, of Chester), was laid by James Drinkwater, esq. mayor ; Thomas Case and W. Nicholson, esqrs. bailiffs. The administration of these gentlemen will be memorable from their having laid the first stone of two ecclesiastical edifices—this tower, and the new church of St. Luke, at the top of Bold Street ; and still more so from their eminent attention to the duties of their offices, and the accomplishment of that important work to the town of Liverpool, the removal of the prisoners from the loathsome dungeon of the old goal in Water Street to the commodious new prison in Great Howard Street, which was effected, after many years delay, through their spirited efforts, and unwearied personal attention.

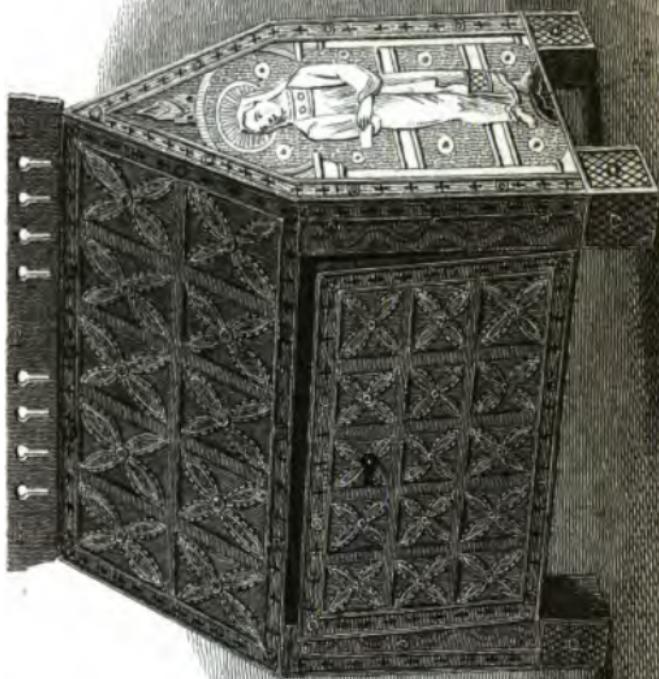


Engraved & Published by F. G. C. from a Drawing by J. L. D. 1840.

Front of the Shrine of St. Ethelwold, Hereford.







Engraved & Published by J. Steer. from a drawing by Miss H. A. Burton, A.R.A.

Shrine of St. Ethelbert Mercia.

## **SHRINE OF ST. ETHELBERT, HEREFORD.**

ETHELBERT, king of the East Angles, was murdered in the year 792, by Offa, king of the Mercians, whose ambition to join the kingdom of East Anglia to his own, induced him to commit this act of barbarity in unison with the basest treachery. The young prince Ethelbert designing to marry, came to the court of Offa, and demanded his daughter Adelfrida. He was received at first with great marks of affection and esteem ; but these flattering appearances were of short duration. Offa, as it is said, by the instigation of his queen, was persuaded to break the most sacred laws of honour and hospitality, by the murder of his guest—immediately after which, he marched an army into East Anglia, and united it, without opposition, to Mercia. Offa was afterwards seized with such tormenting remorse on account of this horrid fact, that he resolved upon a journey to Rome to procure a pardon from the pope: this was easily obtained, upon his promise of being liberal to the churches and monasteries. Among other imposts attendant upon the monarch's engagement was, an annual tax of one penny upon every family in his dominions, for the support of a college of English students at Rome, founded by Ina,

#### SHRINE OF ST. ETHELBERT.

king of the West Saxons. This tax, in process of time, became very burdensome to England, under the title of Peter's Pence; and the popes, pretending it was a tribute that the English paid to St. Peter and his successors, continued the exaction till the abrogating times of Henry VIII.

The curious and very beautiful relic of antiquity which commemorates the assassination above recorded, is formed of oak, very thick and strong, covered with plates of copper, beautifully enamelled in different colours, and handsomely gilt. It is seven inches long, three inches and three eighths broad, and eight inches and a quarter high. The sloping part, or roof of the Shrine, measures three inches in height; the front panel five inches. It is almost universally regarded as a religious memorial of the death or martyrdom of Ethelbert, king of the East Angles; which took place at Sutton's Walls, near Hereford.

The figures on the principal side of the pyx, have a clear reference to a transaction of this nature; the attitudes of the assassins (cautiously advancing on tiptoe, and pointing silently to their victim, whilst one is in the act of striking off his head), sufficiently mark them as such; the martyr, surprized at his devotions, seems in the act of springing up to meet the hand, which, from the cloud, appears outstretched to receive him. It has been suggested, that this device might relate to some priest or bishop, assassinated during the celebration of

#### SHRINE OF ST. ETHELBERT.

mass; but as mass is not usually celebrated with the head covered, and as the cross on the table is a simple cross, and not a crucifix, which last is generally used in public mass, it appears much more probable that the murder was committed during an act of private devotion; and the dress and crown of the martyr, rather denote a prince, than either priest or bishop.

The design on the upper part, or roof of the shrine, still has a relation to the martyrdom. We there see a sort of bier, on which is extended what we may suppose the body of the martyr; two men are employed in raising it from the ground: it is surrounded by figures, probably intended to represent angels, two of which are scattering incense, and two others, standing behind the bier, seem to point to Heaven. One of them bears a tablet, on which is an inscription.

The figures at each end of the Shrine may, perhaps, represent St. Ethelbert after his beatification; at least the glory round the head would lead one to suppose it; as none of the figures on the front, the assassins, the murdered prince, and the bearers of the bier, have any thing of the sort.

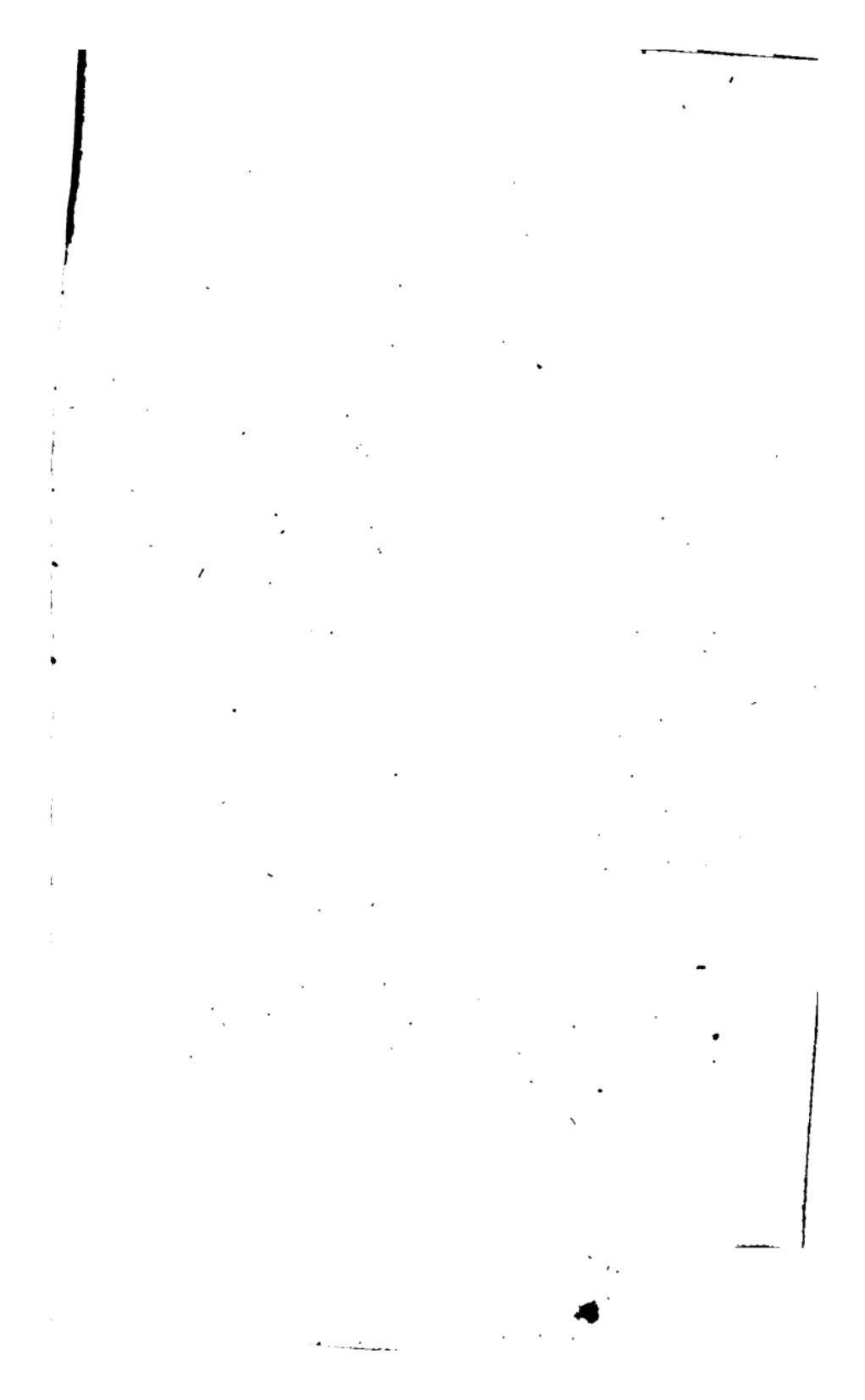
The colours of the enamel are three shades of blue; a green, red, yellow, and white—the figures are gilt; those in the front have the heads in relief.

The back of the Shrine is covered with a Mosaic pattern, of four pointed leaves repeated within square compartments. The back pannel opens downwards, as a

SHRINE OF ST. ETHELBERT.

door, and fastens with a lock; on the inside is a plank of wood, on which is painted a red cross, the usual sign of a relic: the plank is much stained with a dark liquid, supposed to have been the blood of the martyr.

This pyx used formerly to stand on the high altar of Hereford cathedral, which is dedicated to St. Ethelbert. At present it is in the possession of the rev. Mr. Russell, one of the canons of the cathedral; and by his permission, the two Drawings were taken—for which, and the foregoing description, we are indebted to Miss H. S. A. Horton, daughter of sir Watts Horton, bart.



Engraved & Published by J. Orrig, May 2d, from a Drawing by W.H.

Whitby Abbey, Yorkshire.



## **WHITBY ABBEY,**

### ***YORKSHIRE.***

In the year 655 Penda, the pagan king of Mercia, having invaded Northumberland with a great army, Oswy, the king of that district, endeavoured, by large offers, to prevail on him to withdraw his forces; but finding both entreaties and offers equally ineffectual, and that he must have recourse to arms for his relief, he, according to the superstition of those times, endeavoured to secure the divine assistance by the promise of religious foundations if he came off victorious, and under that condition made a vow, that his daughter should dedicate herself to the service of God by a life of celibacy, and that he would moreover give twelve of his mansions for the erection of monasteries. This done, he engaged and defeated the pagan army, although greatly his superior in numbers, and their king Penda was slain in the battle. Oswy, in order to fulfil his vow, placed his daughter Ethelfleda, scarcely a year old, as a nun in the monastery called Hertescie, of which St. Hilda was then abbess, who having procured ten hides of land in the place called Straeneschalch, built there a monastery for both men and women, which was dedicated to St. Peter, and governed by an abbess: this place was afterwards

#### WHITBY CHURCH.

called Whitby. It was greatly enriched by the donations of Ethelfleda.

Burton, in his account of this monastery, says, “The building was began in 657 for men and women of the Benedictine order, and though really founded and dedicated to St. Peter, and endowed by king Oswy, yet the honour is generally given to St. Hilda, who became the first abbess thereof, and is generally called St. Hilda’s, after her.

This monastery continued in a flourishing state till about the year 867, when a party of Danes under Ingua and Hubba landed at Dunesley bay, two miles westward of this place, and encamped on an eminence on the east side thereof, still called Raven’s Hill; this name it is supposed to have obtained from the figure of that bird being worked on the Danish ensign, which was there displayed. They plundered and laid waste the country, and entirely destroyed this monastery, which remained in ruins many years, and was, in the reign of William the Conqueror, refounded by William de Percy.

In the progress of this Work there will be given several more views of these interesting remains, and the descriptive matter continued.





*Engraved & Published by J. Greig, May 1, 1812, from a Sketch by J. Hawksworth.*

*New Romney Church, Kent.*

## **ROMNEY CHURCH,**

**KENT.**

THE Church at Romney is dedicated to St. Nicholas, and is a spacious edifice, consisting of a nave, aisles, and chancel, with a very curious tower at the west end, mostly of Norman architecture, as is also the chief part of the nave and aisles. The entrance doorway of the tower is a deeply-recessed arch, with diversified mouldings, greatly injured by plaster and whitewash: the arch is supported by three colomns on each side, having capitals ornamented with foliage ; over the arch are three long windows with simicircular heads, supported by pilasters and small columns ; the windows above these are pointed. A range of small heads has been continued round the upper part of the tower, and others appear in different places. The angles of the tower are terminated by pinnacles, which all differ from each other: on the top of the tower are the remains of an octagonal spire, that once crowned this fabric.

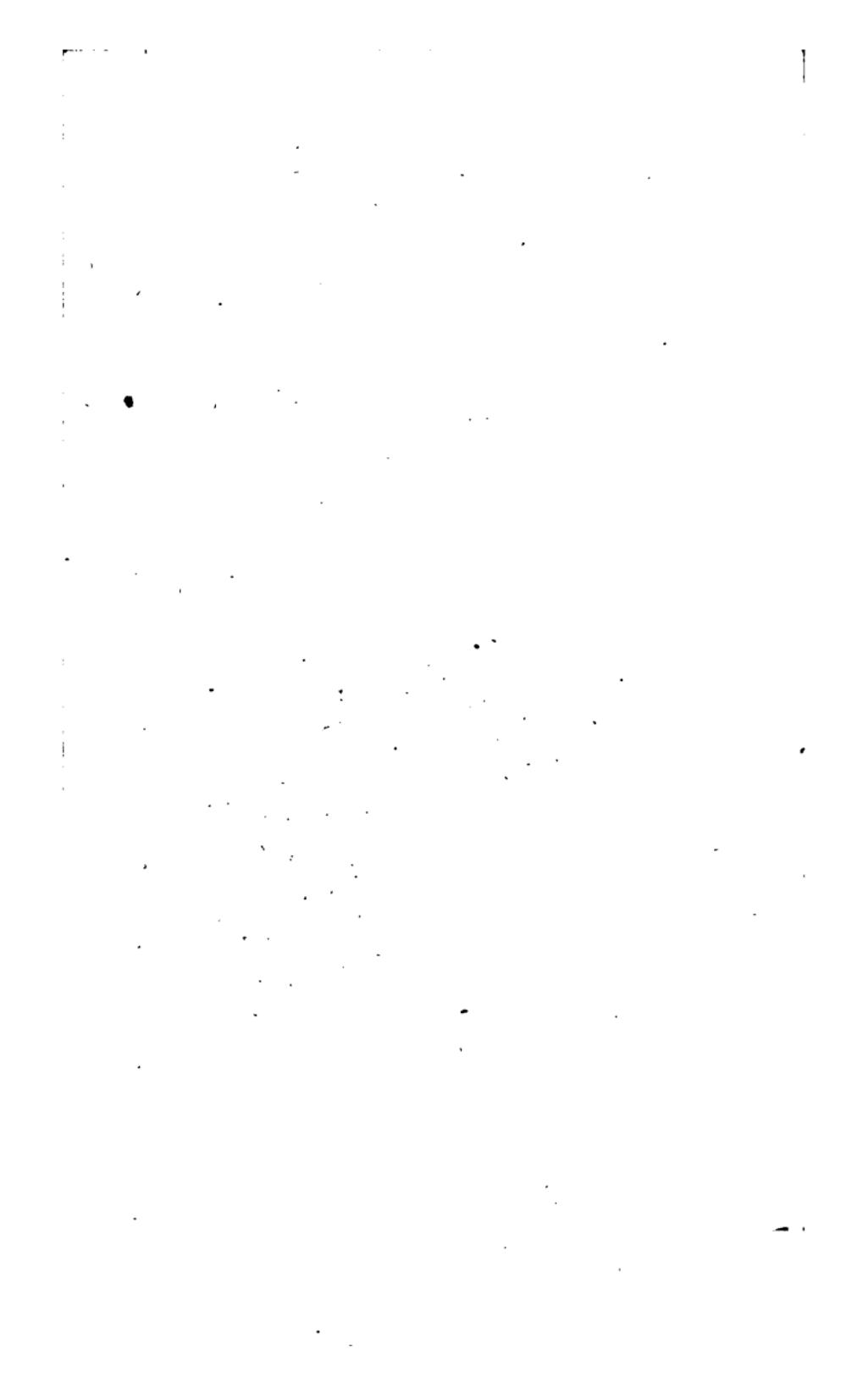
The whole eastern part of the Church is in the pointed style; the east window is very large, and handsomely ramified : the ceiling of the chancel is painted in compartments:

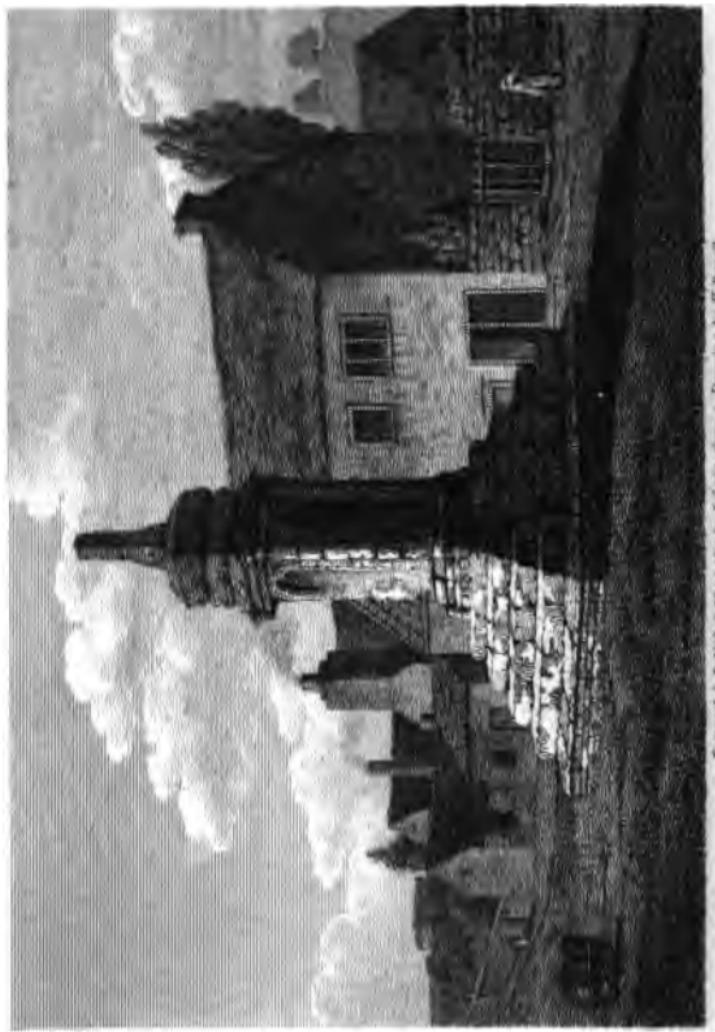
**The Church was formerly appropriated to the Abbey**

#### ROMNEY CHURCH.

of Pontiniac, in France, the convent of which founded a small priory or cell here, subordinate to their own house. This was probably made denizen on the dissolution of alien priories, as it is recorded to have been granted by Henry VI. in his seventeenth year, to the college of All Souls, in Oxford, at the instance of archbishop Chicheley ; but it has since been alienated.

Romney, or New Romney, is a borough by prescription ; but the inhabitants were incorporated in the reign of Edward III. The corporation at present consists of a mayor, nine jurats, and eleven commoners or freemen, in whom is vested the right of sending two barons to parliament.





Engraved & Published May 1, 1801 by J. Orring, from a Drawing by H. Powell.

Stone Cross. Charlwell, Gloucestershire.

## STONE CROSS AT CLEARWELL,

### GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

CLOWERWALL, anciently called Wellington, and afterwards Clear-Well, from the clear spring arising in this tithing, is a long, straggling village, situated six miles from Monmouth, and about twenty-one from Gloucester. In going direct through the village the Cross particularly attracts the notice of travellers. The erect stone which crowns it was, till within a very few years, much higher, but was unfortunately broke by placing a large bough on the top, on the 1st of May. This Cross is elevated by five tiers of stone steps; it is of a square form, and has a slender pillar at each corner, unornamented, but elegant; between each pillar is a recess, having trefoil heads; above them formerly arose the shaft. But little notice is taken of this Cross in history; it is supposed to have been monumental.

The neighbourhood abounds in coal, iron, and is also famous for its quarry-stone. On the right is the entrance to the noble seat of C. Edwin, esq. (the top of which appears in the distance in the annexed View) a strong, well-built, and capacious mansion, and has much the appearance of a castle; it contained many pictures, the most valuable of which have been removed to Dun-

**STONE CROSS AT CLEARWELL.**

raven castle by Mr. Wyndham, the son of the above-named gentleman.

This house was built by the father of Mr. Edwin. It formerly belonged to the family of sir John Joyce, afterwards to the Grinders, then to the Baynhams, next to the Throgmortons, and has since descended to the very respectable family of the Wyndhams, in whose possession it still remains. The park was formerly well stocked with deer: the scenery around is very delightful, and truly picturesque.

Not far from Clearwell is Coleford, where traces of Claud Offa, or king Offa's dyke, are still visible. Coleford is a chapelry to Newland, which is a pleasant village, forming an irregular square round the church, and inhabited by many respectable families.





Engraved & Published by George May Lill from a Drawing by T. Whate.

Whitefriars Staircase Coventry.





Engrav'd & Published by G. & G.燎拂 From a Drawing by T. White

*Part of the Cloisters White friars Coventry.*





Engraved & Published by J. Craig, May 1, 1811, from a Drawing by T. White.

Part of the White-friars, Coventry.

## **THE WHITE FRIARS' MONASTERY, AT COVENTRY,**

**WARWICKSHIRE.**

ON the south part of the city of Coventry stood the Friars Carmelites, commonly called the White Friars; the first institution of which order, as many authors affirm, was Elias, the prophet of Mount Carmel, in Syria, where living a retired life in the service of God, he gave example to many devout men, to repair thither for solitude: these being disposed over the whole mountain in private cells, were at length by Almeric, bishop of Antioch, reduced into one convent, at which time they elected out of themselves a superior, and first began the foundation of a monastery, where the chapel of the Blessed Virgin stood. But this origin of the institution of Carmelites, or White Friars, is much disputed: other writers affirm that it began not until the time of pope Alexander III. about the year 1170; nor till the time of Innocent III. nearly forty years after Alexander's death, had they any direct institution or order, which was first dictated to them by Albert, bishop of Jerusalem, out of St. Basil's rule; he gave them a party-coloured mantle of white and red, which was afterwards altered by Honori-

#### THE WHITE PRIARS' MONASTERY.

Edward III. who, instead of the party colour, appointed that it should be all white, calling the convent of these friars on Mount Carmel the family of the Blessed Virgin.

This order appears first to have been introduced into England by sir John de Versey, of Alnwick, in Northumberland, in the year 1250. On his return from the Holy Land he built for them a monastery at Holme, in Northumberland, then a desert place, and reported not to have been unlike Mount Carmel; but they obtained no footing in Coventry until 1342, in the reign of Edward III. when sir John Poulney, knt. four times lord mayor of London, erected this house for them, whose arms, cut in stone, are still to be found in the remains of the ancient buildings belonging to his establishment. As these friars lived entirely on the charity of the good and the devout, their Monastery was not endowed with lands, &c.; but it appears that they were not very poor, for so high an opinion had the strictness of their rules and the austerity of their lives obtained, that there were few persons of quality or great property who, in their bequests, did not remember them.

In the reign of Henry V. licence was granted to one William Borener to give them a piece of ground lying in Coventry, containing 141 feet in length and forty-five in depth, for the enlargement of their habitation, in consideration whereof they were to celebrate the anniversary of John Percy and Alice his wife, deceased.

#### THE WHITE PRIARS' MONASTERY.

Shortly after the founding of this religious house, one William, a friar belonging to it, became very famous for his learning, and wrote many works ; he was commonly styled William of Coventry. Balaeus mentions him with great honour, and enumerates his literary productions.

In the twenty-second year of Henry VII. died sir Thomas Poultney, of Misterton, in the county of Leicester, knt. he was the lineal heir of the above-named sir John ; by his testament he bequeathed his body to be buried in the chancel of the church of this Monastery, appointing that at his funeral twenty-four torches, each having his arms upon them, should be borne by twenty-four poor men, every one having a gown given them, with the libberd's head behind and before.

Upon the survey taken in the time of Henry VIII. it was found that there were certain burgages in Coventry belonging to these friars, which yielded £3:6:8 per annum rent, and that the oblations in the chapel of Our Lady did, one year with another, amount to £5:18 per annum, in total £9:4:8 ; out of the burgages was paid yearly 20s. unto Mereton's chantry, in the church of St. Michael, in Coventry, and to the heirs of Robert Norwood, 2s. per annum, as a rent for the land upon which their church was built, with money for murage annually, and other payments, amounting in all to 9ls. ; the clear value of all that belonged to them was only £7:13:8 per

#### THE WHITE FRIARS' MONASTERY.

*annum.* The dissolution of this Monastery did not take place until the thirtieth of Henry VIII. when all the poor mendicants followed the example of the greater monasteries in making surrender of their houses.

After the thirtieth of Henry VIII. this house, with all that belonged to it, excepting the rent of 20*s. per annum* due to Mereton's chantry before mentioned, was, by the king's letters patent, dated the 27th of August, in his thirty-eighth year, granted to sir Ralph Sadlier, knt. and his heirs, to hold in burgage. Sir Ralph sold it to John Hales, who converted the monastic buildings into an habitation for himself: in his last will and testament, dated the 17th of December, in the fifteenth year of the reign of Elizabeth, he appointed it to be sold by the title of Hale's Place, alias White Friars, in Coventry. "This was that John," says Dugdale, "whom the learned Leland called Hales with the club foot, which lameness and deformity was occasioned (as I have heard) by a wound with a dagger, that casually in running fell forth from the sheath into the dirt, so that as he stepped forward the sole of his foot did hit upon the point thereof." He died the 5th of January, in the year 1572: he was buried in the church of St. Peter, in Broad Street, London. His epitaph is to be found in Stow's Survey. But notwithstanding this will it was not sold; for John Hales, esq. descended from Christopher, his eldest brother, enjoyed it, and left it to his son Christopher Hales,

#### **THE WHITE FRIARS' MONASTERY.**

esq. whose son sir John Hales, knt. and bart. left issue sir Christopher Hales, bart. who died a bachelor about the year 1717, and sir Edward, who, upon his brother's death, procured an act of Parliament for the sale of it, in order to discharge sir Christopher's debts. It was purchased by John, duke of Montague, who in 1722 conveyed it to Samuel Hill, esq. of Shenston park, in the county of Staffordshire, whose family enjoys the lands; but the mansion was sold to two tradesmen of Coventry, and has been used for the purposes of a manufactory.

The church belonging to this Monastery was taken down in the reign of Elizabeth, and the materials used for erecting the house of a Mr. Edward Boughton, at Causton, in this county. Of the other buildings of this house many portions remain, but in a mutilated state; the most perfect are the cloisters, the kitchen, and the staircase, of which we have given distinct views: the other parts have been much altered for the purposes of the weaving manufactory. But still they serve as a guide to point out the form of the buildings.

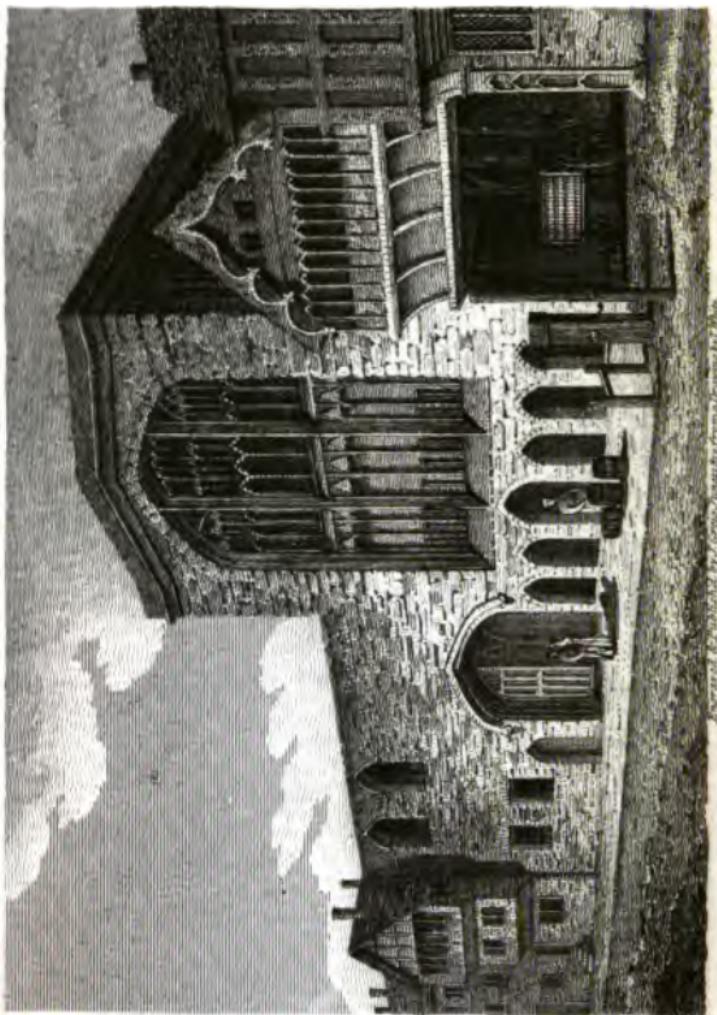
In the kitchen there is a rude stone coffin, or sarcophagus, of great antiquity, without inscription, or any sort of ornamental sculpture; it was found within the cemetery, and is now devoted to purposes very different from that for which it was formed.

**Every hour almost produces some fresh mutilations**

**THE WHITE FRIARS' MONASTERY.**

in these buildings, and a few years may perhaps entirely sweep away the present relics of the White Friars' Monastery at Coventry.





Engraved by George Morland from a Drawing by W.H.

St. Mary's Hall, Coventry.





*Engraved & Published by J. Craig, Successor to A. Dugdale, from a Drawing by J. White.*

*Interior of St. Mary's Hall..*

## ST. MARY'S HALL,

*COVENTRY.*

THOMAS de Schynton, Nicholas Pake, William de Tuttebury, William de Overton, clerk, Peter Percy, Richard de Darkese, Simon Wareyn, John Vincent, and John de Pakynton, gave a fine to the king for license to found, in the seventeenth year of Edward III. a gild in Coventry, to the honour of St. Katharine; but this shortly after became united to those of the Holy Trinity, Our Lady, and St. John the Baptist—"Whereunto," says Dugdale, "belonged a fair and stately structure for their feasts and meetings, called St. Mary's Hall, situat opposit St. Michael's church on the south part, and built about the beginning of Henry VI.'s time, as may appear by the form of its fabric, and other testimonies, the windows whereof are adorned with sundry beautiful portraiture and arms; that towards the north of several kings in their surcotes, whose names placed under them are as follows:—Rex Will. Conquestor, Rex Rich. Conquestor, Rex egregius Henrieus quintius, Rex magnanimus Henricus quartus, Constantius Anglicus, Imperator Christianissimus, Rex Anthurius conuesto inclitus, Rex illustris Henricus tertius, Rex Henricus sextus."

Besides these arms in the great window at the upper

#### ST. MARY'S HALL.

end of the hall, are in other windows those of the city of Canterbury, Humphry, duke of Gloucester, John, duke of Bedford, sir William Babington, &c. &c.

In the windows towards the east and west are the arms of divers eminent persons, who were admitted of these gilds, or the united fraternity. The mayor of Coventry the moment he quits that office, becomes, by right, the master of this gild, and at all public meetings sits next to the mayor. The oath which the master takes on coming into office is as follows:— “I shall be good and true to the brethren and sistun of the Trinity Gild, St. Mary, St. John, and St. Katharine of Coventre, and all lawfull points and ordinances of this place afore this time ordeyned, truly to keep to my power, and in especiall all the ordinances that been or shall be the generall days ordayne truly keep and observe. Also I shall truly receive and truly accompt, yield, as well of me receipts, as of all other things that longen to the master of this gild; and arrage of my accompt, if any be, truly pay, or I depart from my accompt; and all other things truly doe that longen to the office of the said master: So help me God and All Saints. Also I shall once before Candlemas next coming, with six or four brethren of this Gild, oversee all the tenements of the same Gild.”

The Trinity gild before mentioned, likewise held in St. Mary's Hall, was founded in the thirty-eighth year of Edward III. by Henry de Kele and Thomas Orme of

#### ST. MARY'S HALL.

Coventry, who had leave granted them to purchase land in the liberty of Coventry of the yearly value of ten marks, for the maintenance of two priests to sing mass daily in Trinity church, for the good estate of the king and Philippa his consort, and their children, and after their deaths for the health of their souls ; as also for the souls of all the brethren and sisters of the same, and their benefactors for ever. This gild being in the sixteenth year of Richard II. united to that of St. John the Baptist, was upon that conjunction, and ever afterwards, to bear the name of the Gild of the Holy Trinity, Our Lady, and St. John the Baptist, the fraternity thereof having licence granted to them then to purchase lands for the maintenance of nine priests, to sing mass daily in the chapel for the good estate of the king and queen, as also his uncles ; and it soon began to be endowed with lands.

Upon the survey taken in the twenty-sixth year of the reign of Henry VIII. it appears that Mr. Robert Glasmond, being then warden of these gilds, or college of Babbelake (for by this name it was then called), had £8 *per annum* stipend, and that there were seven priests more, which had £4 : 13 : 4 *per annum* each for their salaries ; every priest had likewise a chamber within the precinct of the gild, with 4*s. per annum*.

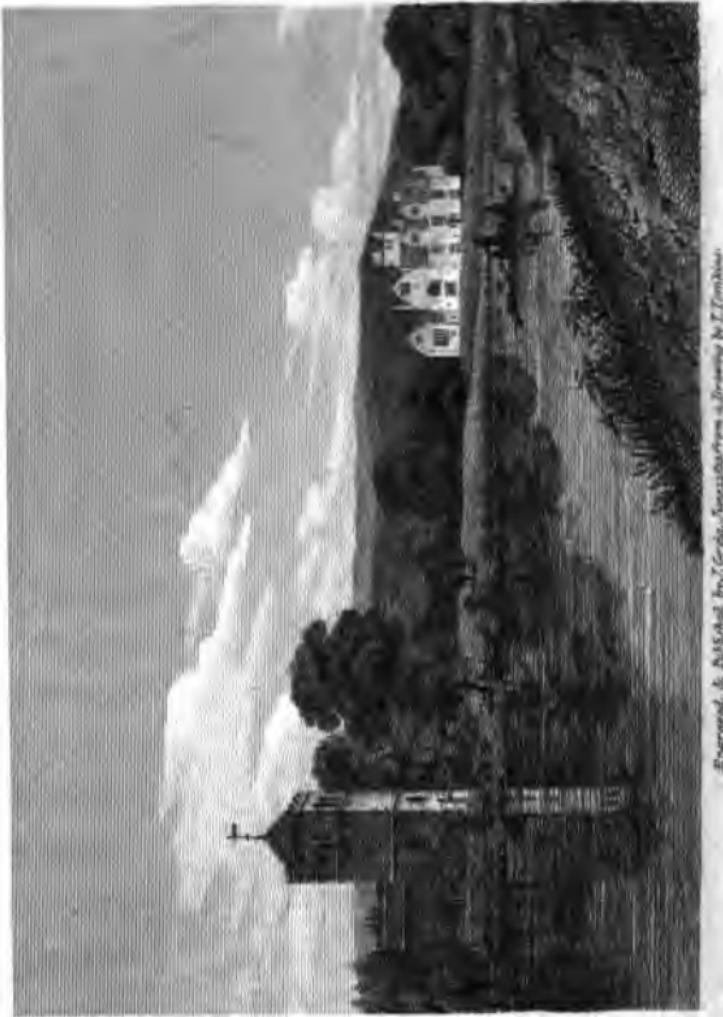
Adjoining to the chapel there was a place built for including an anchorite, as appears from a Latin Testament still in existence.

St. Mary's Hall is a pleasing feature in Coventry.

ST. MARY'S HALL.

Its present appearance is very respectable: the great window facing the street is amazingly rich, and much pains is taken to preserve the memorials of former ages which adorn it; the painted glass is very carefully guarded, and the general good state of repair in which the whole is kept is highly creditable to the citizens of Coventry.





Presented to NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY by T. T. Treadwell

Bisham Valley Banks

## BISHAM ABBEY,

### BERKSHIRE.

THE remains of this Abbey, now converted into a pleasing country residence, are situated on the banks of the Thames, nearly opposite to the town of Great Marlow, in Buckinghamshire, and distant about two miles from Henley. It was erected by William Montacute, earl of Salisbury, in the year 1338, for canons regular of the order of St. Augustine. In 1536 it was surrendered to Henry VIII.; its revenues at that period were valued at £285 : 11<sup>s</sup> per annum. The following year it was refounded by that monarch, and more amply endowed for the maintenance of thirteen monks of the order of St. Benedict, and an abbot, who enjoyed the privilege of sitting in parliament. This was dissolved however within three years of its institution, the income at that time amounting to the yearly value of £661 : 14 : 9, and a pension of £66 : 13 : 4 annually bestowed on Cowdrey the abbot.

It is difficult to account for the various dedications of this Abbey previous to the period when it fell into the hands of Henry. In the first charter it was dedicated to the Lord Jesus Christ and the Virgin his mother; in the second to the Virgin only; and in both the deeds of surrender we find it entitled the conventional church of

#### BISHAM ABBEY.

the Holy Trinity. The Abbey was frequently resorted to by Henry VIII. and also by his daughter queen Elizabeth, who made it her place of residence for some time : a large state apartment yet retains the name of the queen's council-chamber.

Bisham church is seated close by the river, and contains many monuments to record the memory of the Hoby's, to whose family the site of the Abbey was granted by Edward VI. The bones of the founder are said to have been removed from Cirencester, in Gloucestershire, to this church by Maud his widow, she having obtained a license for that purpose from Henry V.

The banks of the Thames are, in the neighbourhood of Bisham, richly decorated with many noble mansions, and grounds beautifully laid out.





Engraved & Published by George French, from a Sketch by F. Frith.

Little Marlow Church, Bucks.

## LITTLE MARLOW CHURCH,

### BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

THE pleasing village of Little Marlow is situated about a mile and a half from Great Marlow, and was part of the possessions of Edith, Edward the Confessor's queen. On the conquest it was given by king William to the bishop of Baieux, but having escheated to the crown, was given by Richard Cour-de-Lion to his brother John, whose daughter Eleanor conveyed it as part of her dowry to William Mareschal, earl of Pembroke, from whom it came into the possession of Gilbert, earl of Clare. Its further descent is involved in considerable obscurity, but it seems to have been attached to the Benedictine nunnery, founded here in the reign of Henry II. but by whom is uncertain. On the dissolution it was granted to Bisham Abbey; and after passing through several possessors, became the property of John Borlase, esq. a branch of the ancient family of Borlase, in Cornwall. This family came to reside in Buckinghamshire about the year 1560, and by their generous hospitality soon became extremely popular: sir John Borlase, bart. the last male heir of this respectable house, died in 1688, after bequeathing his estates to his only daughter, who had married Arthur Warren, esq. of Stapleford, Nottinghamshire, by whom she had issue

#### LITTLE MARLOW CHURCH.

Borlase Warren, whose grandson, sir John Borlase Warren, bart. created knight of the bath for his great services in the present war, sold it to William Lee Antonie, the present possessor.

The Church is a small ancient edifice, the interior of which has been recently repaired. Scarcely any part of the convent is now standing, the principal materials having been used in the erection of a farm-house.

The manor house of Little Marlow is an ancient, irregular building, standing at a short distance from the Church; it has nothing either within or without that renders it particular deserving of notice.





Engraved & Published by F. C. H. from a Drawing by L. Francolin.

Gwydir House, Caernarvonshire.





*Groton House.*

## **GWYDIR HOUSE,**

### **CAERNARVONSHIRE.**

**GWYDIR** derives its name from *gwaed-dûr* (the bloody hand), in allusion to the battle fought here by Llywarch Hêñ, about the year 610. The ancient mansion, built in 1556, by John Wynne-ap-Meredydd, was an extensive pile of building, without much regularity, ranged in the quadrangular style, comprising an outer and inner court. What is left of this structure has little to boast as to architectural design, though it exhibits, in some degree, a portion of the splendour of its former possessors. This estate continued in the family of the Wynnes till about the year 1678, when it passed to that of Ancaster, by the marriage of Mary, the heiress of sir Richard Wynne, to the marquis of Lyndsey, and was afterwards possessed by sir Peter Burrell, knt. in right of his wife the baroness of Willoughby, eldest daughter of the late duke of Ancaster, in which family it now remains, under the title of lord Gwydir.

Immediately beyond the house the ground rises very rapidly to the foot of the perpendicular cliffs, forming the westward boundary of the valley, all which space is occupied by a fine wood consisting of furs, oak, sycamores, beeches, and ashes, in the highest luxuriance of growth that can well be imagined, whilst the summit of

#### GWYDIR HOUSE.

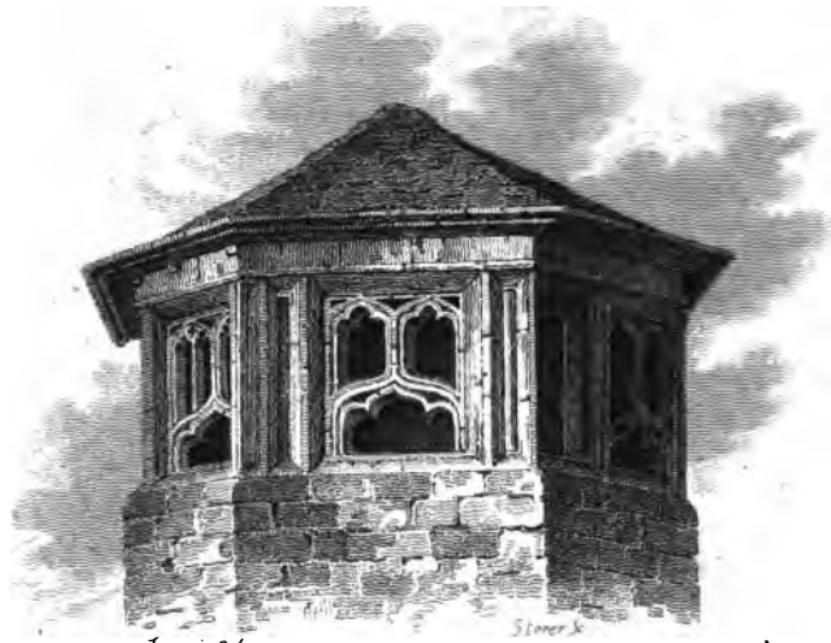
the rocks, and every crevice or step in their steep sides is adorned by the spiry spruce fir, the light airy pendant birch, agreeably mingled with the bright foliage and resplendent scarlet berries of the mountain ash. Half way up the rocks is an irregular plain of about five acres, containing the remains of an ancient house, consisting of a magnificent terrace and a chapel; and likewise a few cottages. From the cliffs above, this scene is unusually pleasing and picturesque, and the eye of the beholder is farther gratified by a view over the rich, fertile, and extensive vale of Llanrwst, watered by the winding Conwy, and enlivened by villages, and the seats of the surrounding gentry, which peep from among the sheltering woods which clothe the higher and bleaker parts of this noble scene.

Gwydir and its immediate neighbourhood is very remarkable for the production of plants that are not to be generally found in other parts of the country. On a wall, not far distant from the chapel by the road side, leading to Capel Cerig, grows the plant *sedum rupestre*; and in very sandy barren places, *tormentilla reptans*; by the side of a rivulet in a dingle, *nant bwlich yr hairn*; a mile from the bridge of Llanrwst, and about twenty or thirty yards from the turnpike road leading to Conwy, *thlaspi alpestre*; in the meadows on the banks of the Conwy, *orobus sylvaticus*; and in most of the moist grounds on the Gwydir estate, the *centunculus minimus*,

#### GWYDIR HOUSE.

*stellaria uliginosa, campanula hederacea, vaccinium uliginosum, and rubus idaeus.*

The town of Llanrwst, which adjoins the Gwydir estate, is situated on the banks of the Conwy, just within the Denbighshire border; the streets are narrow and the



**CWYDIR HOUSE.**

houses generally ill built: the high road to Holyhead passes through this town, which contains nothing very remarkable, if you except its beautiful bridge, built by Inigo Jones.

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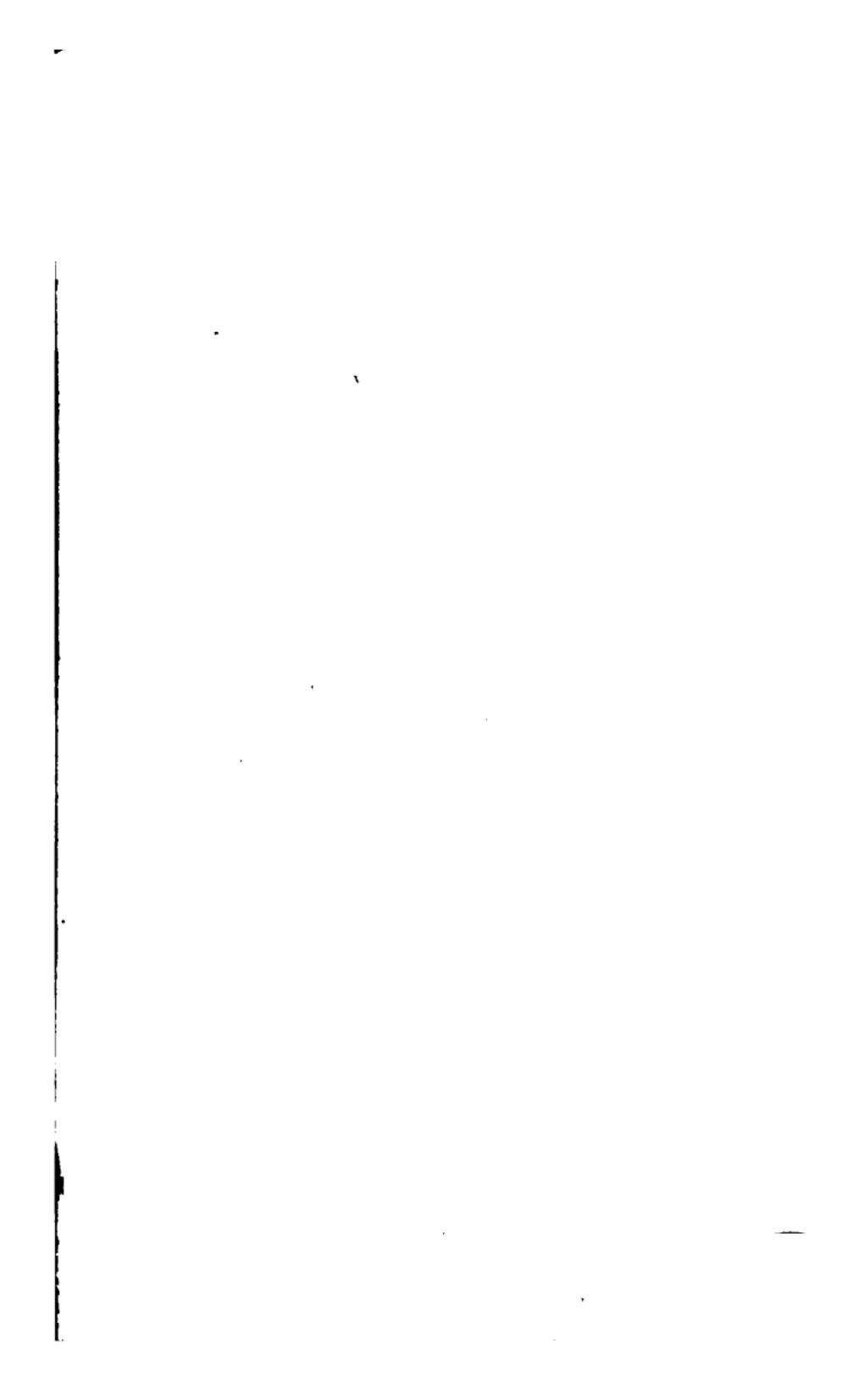
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